MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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REPORT

ON THE

Health of the County Borough of Belfast for the Year 1956

WILLIAM GEORGE SWANN, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.P.A.
Medical Officer of Health

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BELFAST

Health Committee
1956

Chairman:
Alderman ANDREW SCOTT, J.P.

Deputy Chairman;
Councillor STUART K. HENRY, J.P.
(Died 22nd November, 1956)

Aldermen:

THOMAS HENDERSON
ROBERT PIERCE, J.P.
ANDREW SCOTT, J.P.
ROBERT GEORGE CALDWELL KINAHAN, J.P.
Sir WILLIAM NEILL, D.L., J.P., F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I.

Councillors:

STUART KNOX HENRY, J.P.
HERBERT JEFFERSON, J.P., M.A., Ph.D.
JOHN MACGOUGAN
JOHN SAMUEL ROLSTON HARCOURT
Miss IRENE MARGARET ELIZABETH McALERY
WILLIAM ATCHESON
WILLIAM BOUCHER
THOMAS ARTHUR CARRAGHER
JAMES ROBERT McCLURG
SAMUEL HAROLD WALSH
Mrs. MARJORIE SINCLAIR (replacing the late Councillor S. K. Henry)

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STAFF AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer:—
W. G. Swann, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.Obst. R.C.O.G., D.P.A.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Port Medical Officer:—
J. McA. Taggart, M.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.

HEADQUARTERS:—

Administrative Officer:— S. N. Smith, B.Com.Sc.

Administrative Branch:—

1 Clerk Higher Division Grade II; 3 Typist/Clerks; 3 Receptionist/Operators.

Accounts Branch:—

1 Clerk Higher Division Grade II; 2 Clerical Officers; 2 Typist/Clerks.

Stores Branch:—

1 Clerk Higher Division Grade II; 1 Clerical Officer; 2 Typist/Clerks; 1 Office Assistant.

Registration Branch:—

Superintendent Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages — J. C. Walker.
3 Registrars; 2 Deputy Registrars; 2 Typist/Clerks.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION:—

Senior Medical Officer—W. J. McLeod, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A., Ph.C.
Executive Officer—J. Boyd.

Infectious Diseases Branch:—

Medical Officer—P. J. Ward, L.R.C.P. (I)., L.R.C.S. (I)., D.P.H.; 1 Clerk Higher Division Grade II; 1 Vaccination Enforcement Officer; 2 Typist/Clerks; 3 Clinic and Office Assistants.

Sanitary Branch:—

Chief Sanitary Officer —J. Walker.
Senior Food Inspector —W. Jenkins.
Senior Pests and Disinfecting Officer —W. Robinson
Senior Inspector of Factories and Shops —P. J. McMahon
Divisional Sanitary Officer, South —R. Isdell.
Divisional Sanitary Officer, West —F. W. Hill.
Divisional Sanitary Officer, East —T. F. Mills.
Divisional Sanitary Officer, North —J. Thompson.

7 Food and Drugs Inspectors; 3 Factory Inspectors; 1 Smoke Inspector; 27 Sanitary Officers; 4 Pests Officers; 6 Pupil Sanitary Officers.

2 Clerks Higher Division Grade II; 5 Clerical Officers; 3 Typist Clerks; 4 Office Assistants; 1 Clerical Attendant; 1 Notice Server.

Meat Inspection Branch:—

City Veterinarian—A. McLean, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., D.V.H.
Senior Meat Inspector—G. F. Moore.
5 Meat Inspectors; 1 Clerical Officer.

MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH DIVISION:—

Senior Medical Officer — H. A. Warnock, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Clinic Medical Officer — K. M. Cathcart, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer — E. E. Mercer, M.B., D.P.H.

6 Part-time Medical Officers.

Superintendent Nursing Officer — Miss M. F. J. Baird, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Superintendent of District Nurses — Miss M. Watkinson, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Q.N.

Supervisor of Midwives — Miss M. A. Hay, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., S.C.M.

Assistant Nursing Officers — Miss E. F. Magill, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
Miss M. E. Duke, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
Miss J. Stirling, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

First Assistant Superintendent of District Nurses:—
Miss D. Ritchie, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Q.N.

48 Health Visitors; 45 District Nurses; 30 Midwives.

Executive Officer — R. H. Howard.

1 Clerk Higher Division Grade II; 1 Clerical Officer; 5 Typist/Clerks; 19 Clinic and Office Assistants; 2 Cook-Housekeepers.

SCHOOL HEALTH DIVISION:—

Senior Medical Officer — A. L. Walby, M.B., D.P.H.

Clinic Medical Officers:— E. H. Dowse, M.B., D.P.H.
A. D. Campbell, M.B., D.P.H.
E. A. M. McMordie, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officers:— A. P. Watson, M.B., D.P.H.
G. K. Moffatt, M.B., D.P.H.
P. S. Kerr, M.B., D.P.H.
D. B. Keith, M.B., D.P.H.
K. McKee, M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
K. M. Corbett, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.C.H.
S. N. Donaldson, M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Dental Officer — A. S. Irving, L.D.S. (R.C.S.)

Clinic Dental Officers — V. M. G. Rattie, L.D.S.
H. C. Thornberry, L.D.S. (R.C.S. (I.))
E. M. Moffett, L.D.S.
S. R. Sheane, L.D.S.

X-Ray Dental Officer — J. R. Faulkner, L.D.S.

Dental Officers — N. O. Watchman, L.D.S.
J. H. Dougherty, L.D.S.
P. J. R. Griffith, M.B., L.D.S.
W. R. Morrow, L.D.S.
J. B. Hanna, L.D.S.
T. S. Brannigan, L.D.S.
J. Boyd, L.D.S.

5 Part-time Medical Officers (Anaesthetists)

3 Senior School Nurses; 24 Health Visitors; 1 Speech Therapist (part-time); 2 Physiotherapists; 4 Senior Dental Attendants; 29 Dental Attendants.

Executive Officer — R. T. Curry.

1 Clerk Higher Division Grade II; 1 Clerical Officer; 4 Typist/Clerks; 1 Office Assistant; 9 Clinic and Office Assistants.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BELFAST

Summary of Vital Statistics

Area (Census 1951) (Exclusive of 1,223 acres of tidal water)	15,357 acres (24 sq. miles)
Population	444,800 (estimate of Registrar General for N.I., June, 1956)
Marriages	3,649
Marriage Rate	8.20
Births Registered	8,212 (4,140 males; 4,072 females)
Birth Rate	18.5
Birth Rate average for the ten years 1947-1956	19.7
Illegitimate Births	229 (114 males; 115 females)
Births (notified)	10,780
Still Births (included in total births notified)	334
Deaths	4,632 (2,281 males; 2,351 females)
Death Rate	10.4
Death Rate average for the ten years 1947-1956	10.9
Deaths of infants under one year of age	240 (131 males; 109 females)
Infant Mortality Rate	29 deaths per 1,000 live births
Average for the ten years 1947-1956	45 deaths per 1,000 live births
Neo-Natal Deaths (under one month)	146
Neo-Natal Death Rate	18 per 1,000 live births
Average for the ten years 1947-1956	23 per 1,000 live births
Maternal Deaths	6
Death Rate	0.73 per 1,000 births registered
Deaths from Communicable Diseases listed in Table 8	53
Death Rate from these Diseases	0.12
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Typhoid Fever	Nil
Deaths from Scarlet Fever	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	6
Deaths from Diphtheria	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age)	8
Deaths from Dysentery	1
Deaths from Influenza	27
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	74
Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	0.16
Deaths from Bronchitis	242
Deaths from Pneumonia	202

To:

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor and the Aldermen and Councillors of the Belfast County Borough Council, acting as the Belfast Health Authority and the Belfast Port Sanitary Authority.

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the City of Belfast for the year 1956, comprised of the reports of the Environmental Health, School Health and Maternity and Child Health Divisions of the Health Department.

Vital Statistics:

The estimated mid-year population has fallen by 9,100 to 444,800. Registered births numbered 8,212, an increase of 112 compared with 1955, yet this is the lowest number of births recorded in the City since 1889, apart from 1955.

The number of Deaths registered has fallen by 120 giving a fall in the death rate to 10.4, approaching the lowest record of 10.3 attained in 1948 and in 1953.

Table 5 shows that the trend of mortality from cancer continues upwards after a slight recession in 1955. 840 deaths from this cause is the highest number ever recorded and almost one hundred more than in 1955, the rate per 1,000 having risen from 1.6 to 1.89. There were 133 deaths from cancer of the lung in males and 38 in females. This is the same for males but shows an increase of 18 for females over the 1955 number.

The infant mortality rate was 29 per 1,000 related live births, the lowest ever recorded in the City and compares with a rate of 37 in 1955, the previous lowest record. The rate was 122 as recently as 1940. The neo-natal mortality rate fell in 1956 to 18 per 1,000 live births, from 21 in 1955. Of the 146 neo-natal deaths in 1956, 53 were associated with prematurity. There were 78 such deaths in 1955. Table 3 shows that deaths associated with prematurity stand ninth in the list of principal causes of death. Pulmonary Tuberculosis has returned to seventh in this list, as occurred in 1953, although there were two fewer deaths from this cause in 1956 than the previous year. The total number of deaths from tuberculosis was 77, a new low record. The number of deaths as the result of motor vehicle accidents rose from 39 in 1955 to 46 in 1956 and that due to all other accidents from 90 in 1955 to 93 in 1956.

For the fifth year in succession there were no deaths from diphtheria and for the second successive year no cases of diphtheria were notified. It is gratifying to report that this disease has been virtually eradicated. For the first time no deaths registered have been attributed to measles. It is hoped that further advantage will be taken of the present facilities offered for immunisation of babies against whooping cough, as six deaths occurred from this disease in children under 1 year, none of whom were immunised. There were 10 deaths classified as due to meningococcal infections compared with five in the previous year. As only two of these deaths occurred in the N.I. Fever Hospital, Dr. McLeod investigated the causes of the remaining eight deaths. The findings are reported in the section on Communicable Diseases in which the necessity is stressed for prompt admission of suspicious cases to the Fever Hospital for early diagnosis and treatment.

Housing:

The work done under the By-Laws with respect to houses occupied by workers and let-in-lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family is recorded in the report of the Chief Sanitary Officer. From this it will be seen that very little has been accomplished by way of improving conditions in this type of dwelling.

During the year the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) and Rent Restriction Law (Amendment) Act (N.I.) 1956 came into force with the exception of Part II of the Act. This gives the Local Authority powers to deal with the immense problem of slum clearance and redevelopment as well as amending the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Acts (N.I.) 1920 to 1951. Under this Act it is the duty of the Local Authority to submit within two years to the Minister of Health and Local Government proposals for dealing with houses in the City which are unfit for human habitation. Every endeavour is being made to carry out this extra duty. It is regrettable that the staffing situation referred to in my previous report (with regard to Sanitary Officers) has further deteriorated. The Department is now 11 Sanitary Officers below establishment.

Water Supply:

With the installation during the year of a main water supply to the Belfast Castle Estate, all premises in the North Division of the City now receive their water supply from the Belfast Water Commissioners public supply and the unsatisfactory private wells have been closed. I would like to place on record appreciation of the most valuable help received from the N.I. Hospitals Authority Central Laboratory, Lisburn Road, where the bacteriological examination of the samples of the well water supplies was undertaken.

Piggeries:

Representation has been made during more than a quarter of a century by successive Medical Officers of Health that the 1894 By-Laws regulating the keeping of pigs within the City should be amended to bring them into compliance with more recent public health standards. During the year new By-Laws were enacted under a Belfast Corporation Act which gives power to compensate pig-keepers for loss of business should they be unable to comply with the new requirements. These By-Laws have not yet received the approval of the Ministry of Health and Local Government.

Smoke Abatement:

With the appointment during the year of a Smoke Inspector more attention has been given to the emission of black smoke from factory chimneys. This officer acts mostly in an advisory capacity, as the legislation dating from 1878 dealing with this matter is totally inadequate and out-of-date to assist in the effective elimination of this pollution of the atmosphere. Recent attention has been drawn to the statistical evidence which shows an association between the incidence of cancer of the lung and cigarette smoking. Incidentally, this may have a bearing on the increase by 18 of deaths from cancer of the lung in women, mentioned above. This evidence together with the knowledge that cancer of the lung occurs more readily among the ubran population than rural dwellers emphasises the urgent necessity for securing as far as possible a clean atmosphere in which our citizens may live and work.

My thanks are due to the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation and help in the work of the Department during the year.

The voluntary service and expenditure of time by the Chairman and the Members of Committee in the performance of the various statutory functions of the Health Committee are much appreciated.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. SWANN,

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer.

Health Department,
16 College Street,
BELFAST.

TABLE 1

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGE PERIODS, 1956

Abbreviated List Nos.	Causes of Death	Total Deaths	MALES												FEMALES											
			All Ages	AGED											All Ages	AGED										
				Under 1 mth.	1—6 mths.	6—12 mths.	Total Under 1 year	1—4	5–14	15–24	25–44	45–64	65–74	75 & over		Under 1 mth.	1—6 mths.	6—12 mths.	Total Under 1 year	1—4	5–14	15–24	25–44	45–64	65–74	75 & over
	All Causes	4,632	2,281	80	40	11	131	13	11	20	103	750	565	688	2,351	66	32	11	109	6	13	12	112	481	629	989
B1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	74	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	24	10	2	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	13	7	3
B2	Tuberculosis, other Forms ..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
B3	Syphilis and its sequelae ..	22	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	2
B4	Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B5	Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B6	Dysentery, all Forms ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B7	Scarlet Fever and streptococcal sore throat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B8	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B9	Whooping Cough	6	4	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B10	Meningococcal Infections ..	10	6	1	2	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
B11	Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B12	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
B13	Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B14	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B15	Typhus and other Rickettsial diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B16	Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B17	Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	14	6	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	8	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	2	1
B18	Malignant Neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues (a) cancer	840	419	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	20	182	120	94	421	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	32	145	135	106
	(b) Hodgkins disease and Leukaemia	23	15	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	5	1	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	2
B19	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	2
B20	Diabetes Mellitus ..	23	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	6	5
B21	Anaemias	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	—
B22	Vascular Lesions affecting Central Nervous System	645	232	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	59	61	109	413	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	67	120	219
B23	Nonmeningococcal Meningitis	4	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

B24	Rheumatic Fever	17	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—
B25	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	81	30	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	15	7	—	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	24	9	7
B26	Arteriosclerotic and Degenerative Heart Disease	1,166	627	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	237	163	211	539	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	80	166	289
B27	Other Diseases of Heart	131	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11	12	34	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	14	18	35
B28	Hypertension with Heart Disease	159	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	25	22	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	31	60
B29	Hypertension without Heart Disease	49	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	3	7	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	8	12
B30	Influenza	27	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	5	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	10
B31	Pneumonia	202	112	—	10	5	15	2	—	—	1	14	29	51	90	—	7	3	10	—	2	—	2	11	13	52
B32	Bronchitis	242	160	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	62	51	45	82	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	1	15	31	32
B33	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	35	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	7	11	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5
B34	Appendicitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
B35	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	19	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	12	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	2	5
B36	Gastritis, Duodenitis, Enteritis and Colitis, except Diarrhoea of the new-born	18	8	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	10	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	1	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	11	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	42	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	3	3	25	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	8	6	6
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	27	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B40	Complications of Pregnancy Childbirth and the Puerperium	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—
B41	Congenital Malformations	64	30	22	6	1	29	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	17	7	2	26	2	2	—	—	4	—	—
B42	Birth Injury, Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis:																									
	(*a*) With Prematurity	17	6	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(*b*) Without Prematurity	24	16	15	1	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B43	Infections of the new-born:																									
	(*a*) With Prematurity	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(*b*) Without Prematurity	6	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B44	Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy:																									
	(*a*) With Prematurity	34	20	20	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(*b*) Without Prematurity	18	9	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B45	Senility without mention of Psychosis, Ill-defined and Unknown Causes	63	22	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	17	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	38
B46	All Other Diseases	316	154	3	4	1	8	3	—	3	15	57	33	35	162	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	10	33	45	70
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	46	35	—	—	—	—	1	4	7	7	5	5	6	11	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	1	2	2
BE48	All Other Accidents	93	47	1	7	—	8	2	2	4	8	13	4	6	46	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	2	9	6	23
BE49	Suicide	27	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	2	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	9	—	1
BE50	Homicide and Operations of War	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	Gastro-Enteritis and Colitis of Children under two years of age (included in B36 and B43)	8	4	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	Pneumonia (included in B31 and B43)	210	115	3	10	5	18	2	—	—	1	14	29	51	95	5	7	3	15	—	2	—	2	11	13	52

Number of deaths, death rates and percentage of total deaths by age groups

TABLE 2

Age Group (Years)	Deaths			Rate per 1,000 of population of age group	Percentage of Total Deaths	
	Male	Female	Total		1956	1955
Under 1 Year	131	109	240	30.0	5.2	6.3
1— 4	13	6	19	0.6	0.4	0.7
5—14	11	13	24	0.3	0.5	0.6
15—24	20	12	32	0.4	0.7	0.9
25—44	103	112	215	1.7	4.6	5.0
45—64	750	481	1,231	11.7	26.7	25.2
65—74	565	629	1,194	37.3	25.9	25.1
75 and over	688	989	1,677	69.8	36.4	35.8

Principal causes of death in order of importance

TABLE 3

1.	Heart Disease	1,297
2.	Cancer	840
3.	Vascular Lesions affecting the Central Nervous System	645
4.	Bronchitis	242
5.	Pneumonia	202
6.	Violent and Accidental Deaths	167
7.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	74
8.	Senility and Ill-defined and Unknown Causes	63
9.	Associated with Prematurity	53

Comparative Statistics for Counties and County Boroughs, 1956

TABLE 4

Area	Rate per 1,000 population				Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Marriage	Birth	Death	Death rate from Tuberculosis	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality
Northern Ireland	6.7	21.1	10.6	0.12	29	0.58
Belfast County Borough	8.2	18.5	10.4	0.17	29	0.73
Londonderry County Borough	8.0	29.3	10.3	0.06	39	—
County Antrim	6.3	22.4	10.0	0.11	28	0.73
County Armagh	5.9	21.7	10.8	0.10	28	0.40
County Down	5.9	20.5	11.2	0.11	28	0.99
County Fermanagh	4.9	21.0	13.4	0.04	27	—
County Londonderry	5.6	23.5	10.3	0.05	28	—
County Tyrone	5.6	23.2	10.8	0.08	28	0.33

Trend of mortality from certain principal causes of death from 1910

TABLE 5

Year	Heart Disease		Cancer		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Bronchitis, Influenza and Pneumonia	
	Number	Rate Per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate Per 1,000	Number	Rate Per 1,000
1910	—	—	—	—	825	2.1	1,538	3.9
1915	—	—	—	—	813	2.0	1,667	4.1
1920	—	—	—	—	762	1.8	1,566	3.8
1925	—	—	—	—	575	1.3	1,163	2.7
1930	852	2.0	466	1.12	436	1.0	839	2.0
1935	935	2.0	463	0.99	389	0.89	1,042	2.23
1940	1,387	3.1	576	1.29	412	0.93	1,001	2.25
1941	1,277	2.87	570	1.28	426	0.96	773	1.74
1942	995	2.24	633	1.42	369	0.83	564	1.27
1943	1,116	2.63	613	1.44	367	0.86	705	1.66
1944	1,098	2.54	620	1.44	354	0.82	544	1.26
1945	1,130	2.59	664	1.52	326	0.75	533	1.22
1946	1,302	2.92	682	1.53	343	0.77	692	1.55
1947	1,482	3.29	662	1.47	281	0.62	618	1.37
1948	1,281	2.81	696	1.53	269	0.59	438	0.96
1949	1,407	3.09	699	1.54	280	0.61	536	1.18
1950	1,500	3.33	717	1.59	225	0.5	565	1.26
1951	1,630	3.67	693	1.56	221	0.49	813	1.83
1952	1,416	3.18	757	1.7	151	0.34	483	1.0
1953	1,155	2.56	758	1.68	114	0.26	466	1.03
1954	1,348	3.0	777	1.7	84	0.18	482	1.07
1955	1,365	3.0	741	1.6	76	0.17	597	1.3
1956	1,297	2.9	840	1.89	74	0.16	471	1.06

— Signifies information not available

Population, Births, Birth Rate per 1,000, Deaths, Death Rate per 1,000 and natural increase from 1890

TABLE 6

Year	Population	Births		Deaths		Natural
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Increase
1890	232,222	8,250	35.5	6,861	29.5	1,389
1895	295,000	9,772	33.1	7,168	24.3	2,604
1900	359,000	11,192	31.2	7,642	21.3	3,550
1905	360,000	11,395	31.8	7,178	20.0	4,217
1910	391,167	10,888	27.8	7,284	18.6	3,604
1915	403,000	10,196	25.3	7,220	17.9	2,976
1920	413,000	12,144	29.4	7,234	17.5	4,910
1925	438,000	10,234	23.4	6,131	14.0	4,103
1930	415,151	9,558	22.7	5,451	12.9	4,107
1935	415,151	8,848	21.3	6,238	15.0	2,610
1940	444,500	8,704	19.6	6,583	14.8	2,121
1941	444,500	8,383	18.9	6,641	14.9	1,742
1942	444,500	9,659	21.7	4,973	11.2	4,686
1943	425,000	10,713	25.2	5,511	13.0	5,202
1944	430,800	10,456	24.3	5,176	12.0	5,280
1945	435,900	9,853	22.6	5,069	11.6	4,784
1946	444,687	10,327	23.2	5,326	11.9	5,001
1947	450,000	10,505	23.3	5,289	11.7	5,216
1948	455,020	9,744	21.4	4,684	10.3	5,060
1949	454,340	9,185	20.2	5,226	11.5	3,959
1950	450,000	8,834	19.6	5,082	11.3	3,752
1951	444,222	8,789	19.8	5,433	12.2	3,356
1952	444,200	8,506	19.1	4,778	10.8	3,728
1953	450,800	8,527	18.9	4,653	10.3.	3,874
1954	449,100	8,302	18.5	4,810	10.7	3,492
1955	453,900	8,100	17.8	4,752	10.5	3,348
1956	444,800	8,212	18.5	4,632	10.4	3,580

Deaths from Cancer by Sex and Site

TABLE 7

Detailed List Nos.	Sites	Males	Females
	Buccal Cavity and Pharynx		
140	Lip	1	—
141	Tongue	4	—
142	Salivary Gland	1	—
143-144	Mouth	1	3
145-148	Pharynx	7	2
	Digestive Organs and Peritoneum		
150	Oesophagus	9	14
151	Stomach	75	67
152-153	Intestines	32	60
154	Rectum	24	24
155-156	Biliary Passages and Liver	14	19
157	Pancreas	18	17
158	Peritoneum	3	5
159	Other Digestive Organs	—	—
	Respiratory System		
160	Nose, Nasal Cavities, etc.	1	—
161	Larynx	7	3
162-163	Trachea, Bronchus and Lungs	133	38
164	Mediastinum	1	3
165	Thoracic Organs	1	—
	Breast and Genito-Urinary Organs		
170	Breast	—	66
171-174	Uterus	—	27
175	Ovary, Fallopian tube and Broad Ligament	—	17
176	Other Female Genital Organs	—	3
177	Prostate	29	—
178	Testis	1	—
179	Other Male Genital Organs	—	—
180	Kidney	9	2
181	Bladder and Other Urinary Organs	11	7
	Other and Unspecified Sites		
190-191	Skin	1	1
192	Eye	—	—
193	Brain and other parts of the Nervous System	10	9
194	Thyroid Gland	2	7
195	Other Endocrine Glands	—	—
196	Bone	5	1
197	Connective Tissue	1	1
198-199	Other Sites	9	12
200-202 203-205	Neoplasms of Lymphatic and Haematopoietic Tissues	9	13
	TOTAL	419	421

TABLE 8

Deaths from certain communicable diseases from 1890

Year	Cerebo-Spinal Fever	Diph-theria	Dysentery	Diarrhoea	Measles	Polio-myelitis	Puerperal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Influenza*
1890	—	37	—	247	378	—	—	41	177	292	—
1895	—	34	—	325	197	—	—	88	184	109	—
1900	—	54	—	241	42	—	—	14	261	115	—
1905	—	32	—	295	227	—	—	35	128	24	—
1910	3	27	—	241	504	—	9	18	18	259	—
1915	39	27	—	240	177	0	8	107	10	134	—
1920	4	45	1	223	132	0	39	94	34	84	243
1925	0	38	0	203	167	0	2	49	18	99	84
1930	—	22	0	116	6	—	8	7	2	65	38
1935	0	55	0	249	251	2	14	37	11	22	65
1940	22	85	0	316	150	1	7	10	1	54	161
1945	2	7	1	188	10	4	5	2	1	26	16
1947	0	3	1	123	42	4	1	0	7	35	27
1948	0	4	1	77	9	0	0	0	1	15	10
1949	0	6	2	109	3	0	0	0	1	9	29
1950	5	3	0	37‡	5	11	0	2	1	16	32
1951	4	1	4	54‡	3	2	0	1	0	4	232
1952	4	0	0	43‡	4	2	0	0	0	10	18
1953	2	0	0	70‡	3	1	0	0	0	8	24
1954	2	0	1	29‡	2	1	0	0	0	2	20
1955	5	0	3	31‡	2	0	0	0	0	10	34
1956	10	0	1	8‡	0	1	0	0	0	6	27
Average Annual Deaths 1946-55	2.4	1.9	1.2	44‡	7.8	2.4	0.4	0.5	1	14	48

— Signifies information not available
* Not notifiable
‡ Under two years of age

TABLE 9

Notifications of certain communicable diseases from 1900

Year	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Diph-theria	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poison-ing	Diarrhoea	Measles	Polio-Myelitis	Puer-peral Pyrexia*	Scarlet Fever	Ty-phoid Fever	Whooping Cough
1900	—	407	—	420	—	—	—	—	44	658	1,777	—
1905	—	234	—	352	—	—	—	—	19	650	631	—
1910	—	238	—	257	—	—	—	—	16	734	95	—
1915	65	179	—	185	—	—	—	1	6	1,994	49	—
1920	8	300	—	151	—	—	—	1	48	1,939	210	—
1925	5	423	—	54	—	—	—	0	5	1,657	143	—
1930	24	118	—	109	—	—	—	9	20	1,132	32	—
1935	19	1,201	—	155	—	—	6,203	22	31	3,394	117	337
1940	166	1,165	—	115	—	—	5,062	2	9	1,266	17	701
1945	39	213	—	76	—	—	1,702	20	1	768	14	603
1947	24	115	1	77	—	—	6,468	61	1	1,144	43	821
1948	25	107	18	108	—	—	2,618	8	4	931	6	666
1949	25	107	33	98	34	775	2,025	13	1	2,931	3	1,566
1950	22	45	35	82	55	377	4,209	109	4	1,668	5	1,078
1951	34	10	170	39	40	560	3,354	36	4	349	24	834
1952	44	3	69	49	16	489	2,702	65	56	399	7	2,131
1953	29	1	112	53	26	614	3,146	47	55	612	8	945
1954	32	1	217	43	23	513	1,613	14	42	496	5	773
1955	26	0	401	40	29	689	4,328	3†	46	791	23	1,460
1956	20	0	198	31	31	412	1,797	9	37	540	8	790
Average Annual Notif-ications 1946-55	30	60	106	68	32	574	3,195	36	21	1,007	14	1,141

— Signifies information not available

* Figures up to 1951 for Puerperal Fever only

† Diagnosis of two of these cases was subsequently amended to Diphtheria and Acute Encephalitis

NOTES:

1. Food Poisoning notifiable only since 1949.
2. Diarrhoea (notified as Gastro-Enteritis of children under 2 years of age) notifiable only since 1949.
3. Measles—notifiable only as the first case occurring in a household within a period of 2 months.
4. Whooping Cough— notifiable only as the first case occurring in a household within a period of 3 months.

Notification of certain communicable diseases in 1956, by age periods and sexes.

TABLE 10

DISEASE	Under I Year		1 Year and under 2 Years		2 Years and under 5 Years		5 Years and under 10 Years		10 Years and under 15 Years		15 Years and under 25 Years		25 Years and under 45 Years		45 Years and upwards		Age unknown		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	7
Dysentery	16	7	35	20	34	14	9	12	9	3	—	11	5	5	2	10	3	3	198
Scarlet Fever ..	3	1	14	13	106	84	106	105	33	39	9	3	2	—	—	—	14	8	540
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4	3	2	1	3	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	20
Poliomyelitis	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	9

MEASLES 1,797 Cases notified. WHOOPING COUGH—790 Cases notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year 6,102 children completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria; of these 3,537 were immunised by the Health Committee's Medical Officers at Clinics, schools, etc., and 2,565 by general practitioners. In addition, 4,120 children received reinforcing injections, 4,011 by Health Committee's Medical Officers and 109 by general practitioners.

TABLE 11 Age Grouping of Immunised Children

Age at end of Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	At end of 1956
0—	69	33	57	72	99	89	54	116	147	158	147	330	357	
1—	2,492	2,445	2,329	2,475	2,597	2,453	1,642	1,982	2,167	1,809	1,719	1,885	1,978	Age Groups 1—4 years **11,670** =35.2%
2—	1,329	1,474	1,554	1,259	1,236	1,291	892	1,210	937	885	920	857	791	
3—	628	614	752	517	523	633	381	393	413	329	301	315	356	
4—	453	358	514	430	352	382	248	224	196	240	198	246	258	
5—	663	542	557	604	562	699	612	520	690	526	522	642	668	Age Group 5—9 years **27,985** =70%
6—	965	810	691	664	655	881	762	669	912	782	834	999	922	
7—	802	678	615	480	360	595	500	441	464	398	528	509	497	
8—	492	360	328	263	186	221	237	193	210	177	262	227	190	
9—	251	170	182	121	61	91	80	81	76	45	73	68	42	
10+	274	267	233	191	125	279	76	102	128	92	101	63	43	
TOTAL	8,418	7,751	7,762	7,076	6,756	7,614	5,484	5,931	6,340	5,441	5,605	6,141	6,102	

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

(Children Immunised with Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis Prophylactic or Simple Whooping Cough Prophylactic)

TABLE 12

Age at end of Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total of age Group At end of Year
0—	68	99	131	310	338	338 (4.3%)
1—	527	1,023	1,446	1,729	1838	2,148 (26.9%)
2—	123	354	687	719	676	2,536 (31.8%)
3+	77	131	233	372	471	4,885

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The common epidemic and endemic infections were at a low level throughout the year. The total notifications of infectious diseases in 1956 was 4,264 compared with 8,384 in 1955 with a corresponding reduction in the number of deaths.

While it is generally known that nowadays the common infections of childhood cause fewer deaths among children under 5 years of age, the change in the relative importance of these diseases is not fully appreciated. The order of diseases in the following list is considerably different from the order in pre-war years.

Deaths from infectious diseases among children under 5 years of age

	1956	1939
Meningococcal infection	8	7
Gastro-enteritis	8	187
Whooping Cough	6	34
Poliomyelitis	1	—
Tuberculosis	1	19
Measles	0	12
Scarlet Fever	0	4
Diphtheria	0	16

Cerebrospinal Fever and Meningococcal infections

It is interesting to note that while only 20 cases of cerebrospinal fever were notified there were 10 deaths registered as due to meningococcal infection. The difference in terminology between the notifiable disease and the registered cause of death prevents comparison between the sets of figures. For statistical purposes the terminology should be made identical as it is in England.

An investigation into the circumstances of the deaths revealed that only two occurred in the Northern Ireland Fever Hospital. The first, an infant aged 7 weeks, had been ill 7 days and was dead on admission to hospital. The second, a child aged 2 years had been ill 6 days and died within 24 hours after admission. These deaths were certified as due to cerebrospinal fever. Prevention of these deaths lies in early diagnosis and prompt admission to the fever hospital.

Four deaths were due to adrenal haemorrhage caused by meningococcal septicaemia (Waterhouse-Friderichsen Syndrome) confirmed by post-mortem examination. The ages of these children were 5 months; 11 months; 5 years and 10 years. These cases while properly classified as deaths due to meningococcal infection were not notified as cerebrospinal fever.

In the remaining four cases, meningococcal infection had not been confirmed by cerebrospinal fluid or bacteriological examination. A retrospective study suggested that the probable diagnoses were purulent meningitis; B. coli meningitis; pneumonia and encephalitis.

Gastro-enteritis. The fall in the number of deaths from this cause in recent years has been as dramatic as that of any disease at any time. The reasons must be numerous; improved standards of hygiene, the general use of dried milk for artificial feeding (recent price changes may affect this) and not least, the close co-operation established between health visitors and the fever hospital in the care and after care of these infants.

Poliomyelitis. A few cases occurred in the autumn and were confined to one sector of the City.

Food Poisoning. One family outbreak of 3 cases occurred. Salmonella anatum was isolated and the suspect foodstuff was kippers.

The remaining notifications were sporadic cases: the majority yielded no pathogenic bacteria. Pathogenic organisms isolated were S. typhimurium (5 cases), S. Heidelberg (3 cases) and S. thompson (1 case).

Enteric Fevers. Three cases of typhoid fever occurred in hospital patients: one was almost certainly the carrier.

Five cases of paratyphoid occurred. Except for a set of twins, these were sporadic and differed in phage type.

Whooping Cough. Six deaths occurred, all children under 1 year of age, none of whom were immunised. Again it must be stressed that immunisation, which is already producing a reduced incidence of the disease, must be commenced at 3 months of age to reduce the number of deaths.

Measles. The end of the year saw the beginning of the biennial epidemic. No deaths were reported among 1,797 households infected. This disease is one which need not be feared by any sensible mother with a healthy child and there is no obvious need for many children to be admitted to hospital or treated with highly potent drugs with their many side-effects.

IMMUNISATION

Facilities for smallpox vaccination, diphtheria and whooping-cough immunisation continue to be provided by general practitioners and at immunisation clinics. The total number of children immunised was much the same as in the previous year. General practitioners are now showing more interest in this work and performing an increasing share of it but are still reluctant to immunise young infants, which is essential from the whooping cough view-point.

B.C.G. Immunisation. This was undertaken on behalf of the Tuberculosis Authority. In a selected area, where the incidence of tuberculosis in the past had been high, over 200 pre-school children were mantoux tested and only one child gave a positive reaction. There is thus need for thought on the necessity of B.C.G. vaccination of the new-born.

Repeatedly, smallpox vaccination, diphtheria immunisation or poliomyelitis vaccination has had to be postponed or refused because of prior B.C.G. vaccination and its complications.

HOME ACCIDENTS

The Registrar General has kindly supplied information of the location of deaths from accidents. This has made possible the following table showing the deaths from accidents in the home.

Deaths from Home Accidents

Cause	Under 1yr.		1—4 yrs.		5—14 yrs.		15—65 yrs.		65 & over		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Suffocation by Food ..	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Suffocation in bed ..	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Burns and Scalds ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	3
Falls	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	25	6	25
Gas Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	4	2	7	4
Poisoning by drugs, etc. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	2	3
Totals	7	6	2	—	—	—	7	6	8	29	24	41

The pattern of home accidents is very incompletely shown by these statistics as it does not include the very many cases due to burns, scalds and bone fractures which result in suffering and prolonged hospital treatment.

Again it has to be remarked that the cause of sudden death in infants, often registered as suffocation, is not understood and requires investigation; more infants die in this manner than die from any of the common infectious diseases.

The main group of home accidents is that due to falls by the elderly—almost half of the deaths (28 out of 65) occur in this group. Little improvement in this figure can be expected when it is realised that 19 deaths occurred in persons over 80 years of age—even confinement to bed would be unlikely to prevent fractures at this age.

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1956

During the year attention was given, with considerable success, to enforcing the Tenement House By-Laws which the Corporation introduced early in 1955, in respect of such houses known to exist in the City. Experience in the administration of the By-Laws shows that the tenement house occupier constitutes a social problem: the nature and circumstances of most of the cases are such that undoubtedly the Welfare Department and in a lesser degree the Estates Department should share in the responsibility of resolving this problem.

A number of old wooden boats, moored at the First Locks on the Lagan Canal, had been converted and used as permanent dwellings by families. The living accommodation was very restricted, consisting of a bunk house and what was termed a saloon. Headroom in the apartments averaged from four to six feet and natural lighting and ventilation in these apartments was inadequate. In some of the craft an apartment was partitioned off for the installation of a pail closet, the contents of which were deposited into the canal. The approach to the accommodation was in some instances through an unlighted apartment with headroom of only 4′ 9″. Cooking was done over small coal or paraffin stoves. Food storage accommodation and washing facilities were not provided. The bilges underneath the floors were flooded with stagnant water giving rise to an offensive odour. The occupants, including adults and children, were grossly overcrowded and the boats were totally unfit as dwellings. Representations were made to the Ministry of Commerce (the controlling authority over the canal) and also to the Ministry of Health and Local Government that the structures should not be used as permanent dwellings. At the end of the year one family was still in occupation.

A consignment of goat-skins arrived in Belfast as part cargo of salted hides, horns, hooves, etc., from Nigeria and transhipped from Liverpool. In the latter place a case of anthrax occurred. The disease probably originated in the cargo discharged at that port. Investigations in Belfast revealed that the skins had been temporarily stored in premises adjacent to the docks. The outsides of the bales were at once disinfected: prior to removal to works outside the City boundary each bale was again thoroughly disinfected and the premises were subsequently treated with a strong disinfectant. The Health Authority in whose area the works concerned with the processing of the hides were situated was informed of the precautions taken by the Belfast Health Authority.

The electrical strike in March caused considerable hardship and inconvenience, but fortunately was of short duration. Everything depending on electricity came to a standstill, including the electrically driven pumps at the various pumping stations on the sewerage system. On urgent requests from the City Surveyor's Department the pumping stations at Sydenham and Shore Road were visited. At Sydenham a complete breakdown had occurred in the system and it was necessary to engage a Fire Service engine to pump the sewage direct from a main sewer into the Connswater River. The contaminated areas and river were treated with disinfectant by the Health Department staff. At the Shore Road pumping station emergency measures were also employed to avoid the area being flooded with sewage and disinfectant was applied.

It is difficult to determine the number of itinerants within the City boundary, because they move so frequently. On some of the vacant sites as many as twenty families have been found at one time. This type of dweller is difficult to control from a public health viewpoint owing to their dirty habits. 96 Statutory notices were served on occupants of shacks for the abatement of public health nuisances and 54 summonses were subsequently served for non-compliance with notices. It was necessary to issue 3 disobedience summonses for non-compliance with Magistrate's Orders to abate public health nuisances. The fines imposed amounted to £54 . 15 . 0.

The arrangement whereby plans for new work submitted to the City Surveyor's Building Inspectors are forwarded to the Health Department for comment on matters concerning public health continues to prove useful and enables a check on the work being carried out. 309 plans were submitted for examination and comment. In addition many requests were made by architects for advice on sanitary matters where plans were being prepared for submission to the City Surveyor.

The exceptionally heavy rainfall during the month of August and in December caused the Knock river to overflow its banks and to flood the Castleview Road area, affecting dwelling houses in low lying parts. The matter was considered by the Improvement Committee and representations were made to the Ministry of Agriculture as the Corporation has no power to carry out a comprehensive scheme of widening and deepening the river. It was understood that the Ministry had power to widen, deepen and improve existing watercourses but these powers are, at present, confined to main watercourses. The Knock river has not been defined to be a main watercourse. A statement of the Government's policy on the drainage of certain rivers is expected soon. The Improvement Committee received a deputation of representatives of Victoria Ward concerning flooding which had taken place in the Connswater area. The Committee instructed the City Surveyor to consider and report on temporary arrangements to alleviate the position. Disinfectant was supplied to householders in the above affected areas. In the month of August the Blackstaff river overflowed its banks and flooded gardens and low lying ground in the vicinity of Stockman's Lane, adjacent to the City boundary. The areas were treated with disinfectant in August and September by fogging with the Lister-Todd Fog Applicator.

The co-operation which the Health Department received from other Departments of the Corporation and public bodies is fully appreciated. As a result many defects are observed and at once dealt with by the Department. The number of references to other Departments during the year was:—

Estates Superintendent for defects discovered in Corporation dwelling houses	568
City Surveyor for various nuisances and defects	2,725
Belfast City and District Water Commissioners for defects to water fittings	1,175

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The system of sewerage and sewage disposal is under the control of the City Engineer and Surveyor. During the year work continued on the construction of the new High Level Intercepting Sewer designed to improve the drainage of the north-western part of the City. The section now under construction extends from the Main Drainage outfall works to Mervue Street and work is in progress both on the 8ft. 6in. × 8ft. 6in. horseshoe section and the 7ft. 6in. diameter circular section which is being constructed as a tunnel.

Site investigations have been completed for the Kinnegar Sewage Disposal Works and the preparation of the detail plans is well in hand. The scheme is designed to deal with the drainage of most of the City which lies to the East of Templemore Avenue, together with the Urban district of Holywood and parts of the Castlereagh Rural District, and its construction will also necessitate the erection of a new pumping station at Sydenham, a pumping main from Sydenham to Kinnegar and other works. A short length of the pumping main has now been completed to enable a bridge approach to be constructed on the new Sydenham By-Pass Road.

During the year the laying of the following new sewers has been completed—Kirkliston Park to Knock Valley Sewer; St. James's Road; Old Stranmillis Road; Loop Valley Sewer extension and Bloomfield Avenue Sewer. Work is in progress on sewer works at Sandown Road and Old Holywood Road and tenders have been invited for the construction of sewers at Castleview Road. In addition to the above, a large number of old sewers have been relaid in connection with street resurfacing schemes. The cleansing of sewers was carried out by direct labour.

Screening plant has been installed at Distillery Street pumping station. Three new pumps have been put into operation at the Sewage Outfall Works to pump sludge to the Corporation Sludge Steamer and the necessary structural alterations have been made at Greencastle pumping station to permit the installation of additional pumping plant now on order.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This service is carried out by the City Surveyor's Department by direct labour, under the control of the Superintendent of Cleansing.

For administrative purposes, the City is divided into 15 districts, each being supervised by a Cleansing Inspector who is also responsible for street cleansing work. The dustbin squads are provided with refuse collection vehicles of modern design and these vehicles are maintained in the workshops of the Cleansing Section. A uniform type of receptacle for the storage of domestic refuse is highly desirable and the Cleansing Section has its own specification for a galvanised dustbin of 2½ cubic feet capacity, which is of robust construction. Under the provisions of the Belfast Corporation Act, 1930, a service is operated whereby owners or occupiers of premises in the city can hire dustbins for the storage of refuse.

Over 154,000 dustbins are cleansed weekly resulting in approximately 2,500 tons of house and trade refuse for disposal. This material is mainly disposed of by controlled tipping on sites geographically situated in order to equalise transport charges. By utilising this waste material for the reclamation of low-lying swampy ground and disused clay pits, the land can be made to serve a more useful purpose, e.g. grassland for cattle, playing fields, etc. The standard of domestic refuse collection is a regular 7-day service and should emergencies occur such as snowfall, serious and sustained frost, or flooding, every effort is made to maintain the weekly service.

During the year Sanitary Officers made 320 inspections of the private and public tipping grounds within the City boundary. In addition 26 rat destruction campaigns were carried out by the Pests Control Section at the different tipping grounds under the control of the Corporation in order to exterminate rats.

Water Supplies

The control of the public water supply is vested by Acts of Parliament in the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners.

In Belfast supplies of water in even greater abundance will be available from the Mourne Mountains on the completion, early in 1957, of the new Upper Silent Valley Dam and the triplication of the pipe-lines forming part of the aqueduct between Annalong and Knockbracken. The completion of these schemes will fully develop the 9,000 acre Mourne catchment area. Storage capacity will be increased from 3,000 million gallons to 4,700 million gallons, and the carrying capacity of the aqueduct will be increased to approximately 30 million gallons of water a day. Thus Belfast and district will have adequate reserves against the ever growing demand.

General maintenance work has been continued throughout the year. Pipes have been relaid wherever necessary, and close liaison is kept with the Corporation in order that such work is carried on in advance of street reconstruction schemes.

Routine bacteriological examinations of all water under the control of the Water Commissioners was continued throughout the year by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, and copies of the results of these examinations were sent to the Health Department for information. During the year 963 samples of water were taken from or adjacent to the different service reservoirs for examination; these consisted of 15 samples of water before treatment, 400 of filtered and chlorinated water and 548 samples of chlorinated water. The results of the samples showed 16 containing Coli Type I, 19 containing B. Coli-Aerogenes and 13 containing Welchii.

The following is a summary of reports of bacteriological examination of water samples taken from consumers' taps direct from distributing service mains throughout the City by inspectors of the Water Commissioners:—

Samples examined during the year	613
Samples reported as highly satisfactory	567
Samples reported as showing coliform organisms	40
Samples reported as showing intestinal coli	6

During the year 292 samples of water were taken by food inspectors from consumers taps throughout the City and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory of the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority for bacteriological examination. 230 of these samples were reported by the bacteriologist as highly satisfactory and the remaining 62 samples were unsatisfactory. 43 samples contained coliform organisms and 19 samples contained coliform organisms of faecal origin.

The results of examination of the unsatisfactory samples are classified as follows:—

TABLE B 1

Coliform Organisms (Count per 100 ml.)	Number of Samples	Coliform Organisms of Faecal Origin (Count per 100 ml.)	Number of Samples
1—3	34	1—3	15
4—10	5	4—10	4
Greater than 10	4	Greater than 10	—

Domestic Water Supplies From Private Wells

With the completion of work of installing a main water supply to the Belfast Castle and other premises in the Castle Estate, all premises in the North Division of the City have now a piped supply laid on direct from the Water Commissioners' mains.

The bacteriological examination of samples of water from shallow wells on the outskirts of the City, where there was no piped public supply, continued throughout the year. Where unsatisfactory results were reported by the Bacteriologist, householders were advised to boil or treat the water before use.

During the year 94 samples of water were taken from private wells by Sanitary Officers and examined at the Public Health Laboratory. The results showed that 14 of the samples were highly satisfactory. The remaining 80 samples were returned as unsatisfactory because of the presence of coliform organisms.

The results of examination of the unsatisfactory samples are classified as follows:—

TABLE B 2

Coliform Organisms (Count per 100 ml.)	Number of Samples	Coliform Organisms of Faecal Origin (Count per 100 ml.)	Number of Samples
1—3	—	1—3	19
4—10	—	4—10	4
Greater than 10	4	Greater than 10	53

Water Supplies from Artesian Wells

During the year 40 samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination from private artesian wells: the water from these wells is used in the manufacture of food. The Bacteriologist reported 31 of these samples as highly satisfactory and the remaining 9 samples as unsatisfactory, 5 due to the presence of coliform organisms and 4 due to the presence of faecal coli. Where unsatisfactory results were obtained investigations were immediately made by the Food Inspection staff with a view to eliminating the source of pollution.

Public Swimming Baths

There are four indoor public swimming baths, each containing first and second class swimming ponds. In addition, slipper baths are provided. The baths, at Peter's Hill in the North Division of the City, Ormeau Avenue in the South Division, Templemore Avenue in the East Division and Falls Road in the West Division, are open all the year round.

Break-point chlorination and proper facilities for mechanical filtration are provided in all baths with the exception of Peter's Hill, where the method of dosing the ponds with chlorine is carried out by hand, a system which can only be described as crude and leaving much to be desired from a public health viewpoint. The dosage of chlorine cannot be accurately matched to the bacteriological condition of the pond water, which varies with the degree of use of the ponds. It is consequently impossible to ensure proper sterilisation and purity of the water at all times by this obsolete method. The only recommendation which can be made from a public health viewpoint is that proper mechanical chlorination and filtration plant should be installed in these baths.

Tenders have been accepted for the installation of new boilers and complete new water purification plant and plans have been prepared for the installation of calorifiers at Falls Road Baths. Work is progressing on the renovation of the Warm Baths Section at Templemore Avenue Public Baths. Showers and pre-cleansing facilities have been provided at the swimming ponds at Templemore Avenue and Falls Road Baths. Plans are also in hand for a comprehensive renovation scheme at Falls Road Baths. Work on the architectural details is proceeding and will enable the completion of the working drawings for the Grove Baths in the near future.

During the year 339 inspections were made at the different baths: where structural defects were discovered these were reported to the Baths Superintendent for attention.

154 samples of baths water were taken by Sanitary Officers for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory: of these, 125 were found to be highly satisfactory and 29 were unsatisfactory because of the presence of coliform organisms, some of faecal origin.

During the year 504 samples of water were examined at the baths in order to ascertain the pH value and amount of free residual chlorine. Of this number 22 were found to be unsatisfactory and immediate action was taken to improve conditions.

Open-Air Swimming Pools

Tenders have been accepted for the installation of water purification plant at the Falls Park Open-Air Swimming Pool and for improvements to the banks and surrounds at Victoria Park Swimming Pool.

69 samples of water were taken by Sanitary Officers from open-air swimming pools during 1956 for bacteriological examination. The bacteriologist reported 51 samples as highly satisfactory and 18 samples as unsatisfactory due to the presence of coliform organisms, some of faecal origin. All the unsatisfactory samples were obtained from Falls Park Pool. The question of providing proper mechanical filtration and chlorination has been under consideration for some time past by the Parks and Cemeteries Committee and by the Ministry of Health and Local Government. It is expected that work will begin during 1957.

The results of examination of the unsatisfactory samples are classified as follows:—

TABLE B 3

Coliform Organisms (Count per 100 ml.)	Number of Samples	Coliform Organisms of Faecal Origin (Count per 100 ml.)	Number of Samples
1—3	4	1—3	6
4—10	—	4—10	5
Greater than 10	—	Greater than 10	3

During the season 94 visits were made and samples of water were also examined by Sanitary Officers to ascertain the amount of chlorine present so as to ensure a safe margin for bathers.

Samples of Water from Mineral Water Manufacturers' Premises

During the year 92 samples of water were taken by Food Inspectors for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. The results showed that 57 samples were highly satisfactory and 35 samples unsatisfactory due to the presence of coliform organisms, some of faecal origin.

The results of examination of the unsatisfactory samples are classified as follows:—

TABLE B 4

Coliform Organisms (Count per 100 ml)	Number of Samples	Coliform Organisms of Faecal Origin (Count per 100 ml)	Number of Samples
1—3	6	1—3	8
4—10	5	4—10	5
Greater than 10	5	Greater than 10	6

Much time was spent by the Food Inspection staff in investigating the cause of the very high percentage of unsatisfactory samples and some supplies were still under review at the end of the year.

Housing

The raising of housing standards to reach the present level has been a slow and tedious process, and it would therefore be with great reluctance that one would suggest a retrogression in any marked degree. It would possibly be interesting, however, to quote an extract from a report on the municipal health services of Belfast in 1941 relating to housing. On the subject of the provision of alternative accommodation for tenants in unhealthy areas, the report stated; "I have seen some of the earlier efforts of the Corporation, particularly the excellent kitchen houses in Hamill Street and John Street let at 5s. 2d. per week. It is a pity that more houses of this type have not been provided at a rent well within the means of the poorer working-class population". The reference is to the first houses erected by the Belfast Corporation, which were built in 1913 under the provisions of the Belfast Improvement Order, 1910. The scheme comprised 250 houses of the kitchen type, each having a superficial area of 550 square feet and containing kitchen, small room and scullery on ground floor and two bedrooms on the first floor. The houses are laid out to a density of about forty per acre. This was the only clearance and rehousing scheme, as distinct from a housing scheme, undertaken by the Corporation and, as will have been noted, the standard of the houses is below that of local authority housing to-day. If, however, one may be regarded as a minimum and the other a maximum standard for workers' houses, it may be found possible to find a medium which would provide the necessary accommodation without subjecting the occupants to adverse conditions affecting health or unduly lowering accepted housing standards.

In Belfast at 31st December, 1956, there was a waiting list comprising 6,460 families seeking housing accommodation.

The total number of permanent dwelling houses completed and occupied withing the City boundary during the year was 930; in addition 146 self contained flats, 441 dwelling houses and 142 flats were provided by the local authority and, 489 dwelling houses and 4 flats were provided by private enterprise.

Table B.5 shows the sites with the number of dwelling houses erected by the Local Authority and Table B.6 shows the number of dwelling houses erected in each of the four Divisions in the City by private enterprise during the year.

TABLE B 5

Site	Dwelling Houses	Flats
Ballysillan Estate	6	65
Clara Park	141	24
New Barnsley	218	—
Henderson Avenue	—	27
Ardoyne Road	31	14
Alliance Avenue	2	12
Seaview Street	7	—
Andersonstown Park	36	—
Total	441	142

TABLE B 6

Division	Dwelling Houses	Flats
North	169	2
South	107	—
East	146	2
West	67	—
Total	489	4

At 31st December, 1956, the total number of dwelling houses provided and owned by the Belfast Corporation since the commencement of the Local Authority Housing Schemes was 9,651.

Permanent houses built and purchased prior to 1939	2,437
Permanent houses built under Belfast Improvement Order 1910	250
Permanent houses built from 1946 to 1956	4,937
Permanent Flats built from 1946 to 1956	1,027
Temporary (Prefabricated) bungalows	1,000
Total	9,651

Tenement Houses

By-Laws with respect to houses occupied by workers and let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family

Section 20 of the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, provides that the operation of the by-laws be limited to houses let in lodgings or occupied by more than one family.

The by-laws are applicable to houses occupied or suitable for occupation by workers. The definition of workers is as follows:— (Extract from the Housing Act (Northern Ireland) 1948, Section 1)

"The Housing Act (Northern Ireland) 1945, as amended by any subsequent enactment, shall have effect and shall be deemed always to have effect as if, in the definition of "workers" contained in Section 30 thereof, the reference to persons working for wages included reference to persons working for wages under any contract (whether written or oral, expressed or implied) of service or apprenticeship whether such persons are remunerated by salary or by wages".

The wide interpretation that may be given to this definition allows the by-laws to be applied to houses dissimiliar in construction and type of occupants and includes small terrace and large houses of all types situated in neighbourhoods which have changed in character.

Inspections during the year	1,216
Sanitary defects discovered	218
Statutory notices served on owners and occupiers	137
Sanitary defects remedied	47
Summonses issued for non-compliance with By-Laws	183
Summonses issued for continuing offences	11
Number of houses registered at 31 December, 1956	137

(Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts (Northern Ireland), 1920 to 1956.

The safeguards and legal rights of tenants under the Act of 1951 are continued in the Act of 1956. To qualify for the 1951 permitted rent, the house had to be in good and tenantable repair. To claim that rent, the landlord had to issue a notice of increase in the form prescribed by the Act, which had to inform the tenant of his rights. If the tenant was not satisfied that his house was in good and tenantable repair he could apply to the sanitary authority for a certificate of disrepair.

If he is not satisfied with the action of the Sanitary Authority in withholding a certificate of disrepair, he has a right to appeal to the Court. If a landlord institutes legal proceedings against a tenant for non-payment of increase of rent and the tenant has obtained a certificate of disrepair and served a copy on the landlord, the Court will accept the certificate as evidence of the state of repair of the house.

The certificate is a good defence not only against the increase authorised by the Act of 1951, but also against increases right back to 1920.

Once a landlord obtained the increase permitted under the 1951 Act he was legally bound to maintain the house in good and tenantable repair notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary and as if he had entered into a legal covenant to that effect (apart from damage due to any act, neglect or default of the tenant).

All these rights are in addition to the right of a tenant to lodge a complaint under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946, and to ask the Sanitary Authority to compel the landlord to execute repairs in order to abate public health nuisances.

Applications for certificates and reports during 1956	751
Certificates issued to tenants during 1956	339
Reports issued to landlords during 1956	152
Refusals of certificates to tenants as the dwelling houses were found to be in good and tenantable repair	5
Refusals of reports to landlords as all the work specified in certificates had not been completed	231
Number of applications for certificates and reports cancelled during 1956	24
Certificates and reports to be dealt with as at 31st December, 1956	nil
Total applications for certificates and reports from 1st September, 1951, until 31st December, 1956	32,784
Number of certificates issued to tenants from 1st September, 1951 until 31st December, 1956	23,309
Number of reports issued to landlords from 1st September, 1951 until 31st December, 1956	5,412

Housing Acts (Northern Ireland) 1890 to 1956

Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) and Rent Restriction Law (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1956

With the exception of Part 2, this Act came into force on 6th November, 1956. The aim of the Act is to prevent the existing stock of dwelling houses falling into decay simply because maintenance is an uneconomic proposition. The Act presents three main approaches to the situation: (1) an attack on the slum problem with a view to its eventual eradication: (2) the improvement of good but out-of-date houses and (3) the repair and maintenance of the general run of rented houses.

The first approach requires the local authority to submit to the Ministry of Health and Local Government, within two years after the commencement of the Act, proposals for dealing with houses within the district of the authority which appear to the authority to be unfit for human habitation.

Where the local authority has acquired land for the purposes of an improvement or a reconstruction scheme under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, they may postpone the demolition of a house which in their opinion, having regard to the condition of the house at the time of such postponement and to the need for the provision of further housing accommodation in the district, should be retained as housing accommodation for the time being.

Where a demolition order is postponed the local authority is required to render the house capable of continued use as housing accommodation, and keep it capable of being so used. The Ministry of Health and Local Government may pay to the local authority grants in connection with this scheme.

Where a person residing in a house will be dispossessed of that house in consequence of the carrying out of any of the following:— (*a*) an improvement scheme; (*b*) an order for the pulling down of an obstructing building; (*c*) a scheme for reconstruction; (*d*) a housing scheme under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890; (*e*) a clearance order; (*f*) a demolition order; (*g*) a closing order under the Planning and Housing Act (Northern Ireland) 1931, or (*h*) a closing order or re-development scheme under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) and Rent Restriction Law (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1956 and that person has at the date of dispossession resided in that house for not less than 6 months, the local authority shall offer reasonable alternative accommodation. The Act provides that where the local authority is satisfied that in any particular area one half of the land is, or was prior to 1939, used for housing and at least one third of the houses are either unfit for human habitation or dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of the area, the local authority may resolve to treat the area as a re-development area. The Ministry of Health and Local Government with the approval of the Ministry of Finance may by regulations make grants to the local authority toward the costs of acquisition and preliminary re-development of the area. There is a new feature in the Act to assist local authorities in determining for any of the purposes of the Housing Acts (Northern Ireland) 1890 to 1956, whether a house is unfit for human habitation. Consideration has now to be given to the following:— (*a*) repair; (*b*) stability; (*c*) freedom from damp; (*d*) natural lighting; (*e*) ventilation; (*f*) water supply; (*g*) drainage and sanitary conveniences and (*h*) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water, but the house is to be deemed to be unfit if, and only if, it is so far defective in one or more of these aspects that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition. Section 40 of the Planning and Housing Act (Northern Ireland) 1931, is repealed and therefore standards under local by-laws are no longer applicable.

During the year 13 individual dwelling houses were reported to the Health Committee as unfit for human habitation and not capable, at a reasonable expense, of being rendered so fit. The Health Committee made Demolition Orders or accepted undertakings in accordance with Section 29 of the Planning and Housing Act (Northern Ireland) 1931. At 31st December, 1956, 7 of the houses were still occupied.

431 inspections were made by the Sanitary Staff to record details of old dwelling houses which would be considered as unfit for human habitation.

Discretionary Points System for Allocation of Housing Accommodation

Allocations can only be made to applicants who are not in possession of adequate housing accommodation. A tenant of a house may be considered to come within this category if in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health his house is insanitary or so overcrowded as to be prejudical to health. Maximum points allowed under this head are 3. In all cases in which medical certificates are forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health for consideration of insanitary or overcrowded conditions in dwellings, a Sanitary Officer inspects and reports thereon. During the year 165 certificates were investigated. The following table shows the work involved in this investigation and the results :—

Dwelling houses inspected for over-crowding or insanitary conditions	165
Rooms in dwelling houses inspected (under points system)	769
Families occupying the dwelling houses	412
Adults	909
Children	456
Houses found to be over-crowded	76
Houses found to be in an insanitary condition	30
Houses where no recommendations were made	59

During the year the Estates and Markets Committee considered the allocation of Corporation-owned dwelling houses to tenants whose houses were considered to be in a dangerous condition and decided that in the present exceptional circumstances the Estates Superintendent be authorised to offer, forthwith and without regard to the number of points to which the tenants would be entitled, houses to tenants evicted as the result of the making of Demolition Orders, where they may have been in occupation for the previous six months and are in his opinion suitable to be accepted by the Corporation as such and in any other case to submit the matter for consideration by the standing Sub-Committee. This decision is to apply only to the tenants of houses and not to other occupants of those houses.

Planning (Interim Development) Act (Northern Ireland) 1944

34 applications proposed the conversion of dwelling houses into shops, offices, hairdressing saloons, etc. 11 of these were recommended as the houses in their present condition were unfit for human habitation owing to dampness and dilapidation. The other 23 applications were not recommended on the grounds of shortage of dwelling accommodation or that the dwelling houses were located in potential clearance areas. 6 applications referred to factories and other premises in which public health nuisances might arise.

Public Health Nuisances discovered and complained of in dwelling houses, etc., during 1956

TABLE B 7

Nature of Nuisance	Divisions				Total
	North	South	East	West	
Drains, traps, etc., foul or defective	836	469	570	796	2,671
Tiling, paving, or flooring defective	807	745	1,135	1,021	3,708
Sinks defective, or want of; waste pipes foul or defective	210	114	110	170	604
Water closets foul or defective; no water closet accommodation; soil or ventilation pipes defective or want of	1,183	885	1,076	1,526	4,670
Ashbins defective, or want of	208	209	174	384	975
Roofs defective	1,885	1,647	1,758	2,700	7,990
Spouting defective, or want of	2,231	1,099	1,235	1,579	6,144
Damp state	2,083	1,470	2,295	4,096	9,944
Plaster of walls or ceilings defective	291	913	981	1,370	3,555
Domestic water supply: want of or unsuitable ..	67	7	31	16	121
Light or ventilation insufficient or want of ..	58	78	74	221	431
Schools overcrowded	—	1	1	1	3
Dwelling houses overcrowded	23	1	15	19	58
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter; offensive smells; premises or passages dirty	226	256	194	531	1,207
Fowl or animals kept so as to be a nuisance ..	13	4	1	1	19
Schools dirty	4	—	—	4	8
Miscellaneous	1,891	1,564	1,373	2,315	7,143
				TOTAL	49,251

Public Health Nuisances Abated in 1956

TABLE B 8

Abatement	Divisions				Total
	North	South	East	West	
House drains cleansed	718	559	659	687	2,623
House drains repaired	15	79	101	66	261
Houses had tiling, paving, flooring, etc., repaired	720	716	945	1,065	3,446
Houses had water closets cleansed or repaired	981	770	884	1,232	3,867
Number of ashbins provided	143	124	81	191	539
Houses provided with new sinks	—	—	—	4	4
Houses had the roofs repaired	1,851	1,639	1,700	2,738	7,928
Houses had the spouting repaired	1,324	1,054	1,133	1,601	5,112
Passages cleansed	4	8	13	32	57
Houses cleansed	4	7	13	33	57
Houses had minor repairs effected	2,151	2,130	1,942	3,178	9,401
Miscellaneous nuisances	59	83	82	117	341
				TOTAL	33,636
Length in feet of piped drain laid	96½	166½	464	381	1,108
Gully and disconnecting traps provided	2	3	7	12	24

Summary for 1956

Complaints received and discovered	49,251
Inspections made	104,512
Statutory notices issued	21,547
Sanitary Improvements carried out	33,636
Summonses issued for non-compliance with notices	2,204
Court Orders obtained for the abatement of nuisances	329
Summonses for disobedience of Magistrates' Orders	64
Disobedience convictions	64

Bye-Laws made under Section 23 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, (Relating to keeping water closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing).

Inspections during the year	1,570
Notices issued under the Bye-laws	685
Summonses issued for non-compliance with notices	99
Summonses for continuing offences	2

Keeping of Animals

Stabling Yards within the City were systematically inspected by Sanitary Officers during the year, attention being paid to the frequency of removal of manure. General sanitation (including impervious paving of stables and yards) drainage, cleanliness and ventilation were enforced.

Stabling yards on register	184
Inspections during the year	1,915

Piggeries

During the year the City Council adopted By-Laws extending the prescribed distance between piggeries and houses from 15 feet to 300 feet. The majority of pig keepers in the City will not be able to comply with the new By-Laws in their present premises, and it is estimated that compensation to them will cost the Corporation approximately £61,000. The By-Laws are to come into operation 12 months from the date of confirmation by the Ministry of Health and Local Government.

The 1894 By-Laws, now to be replaced, fixed 15 feet as the distance. Proposals to increase the distance have been considered many times during the past 25 years but they were not acceptable mainly on the ground that pig keepers would be forced out of business without compensation.

In a recent Corporation Act provision was made to enable the Council to pay compensation. The distance clause in the new By-Laws covers shops, factories, schools, churches, etc., as well as dwelling houses.

The By-Laws were awaiting approval by the Ministry of Health and Local Government at the end of the year.

During the year complaints were received from occupiers of dwelling houses, etc., in close proximity to piggeries: the complaints were investigated and action taken where necessary to abate public health nuisances.

At the end of the year the approximate number of pigs kept in the City was:—

North Division	South Division	East Division	West Division	Total
382	911	1,233	608	3,134

Piggeries on register as at 1st January, 1956	79
Inspections of piggeries during the year	1,462
Piggeries registered during the year	1
Piggeries removed from register during the year	3
Premises where pigs were kept as at 31st December, 1956	66

Burial Grounds

Under the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878, inspections of burial grounds were made by Sanitary Officers for the protection of the public health and the maintenance of public decencey.

Number of Burial grounds in the City	10
Number of Inspections during the year	134

In addition four exhumations and re-interments took place at different plots in Milltown Cemetery in accordance with licences issued by the Ministry of Health and Local Government. In all cases the exhumation and re-interment was conducted with proper regard for public health and decency. The cremated remains of an adult were removed from Dundonald Cemetery for re-interment in Mortlake Cemetery, London.

Cinemas and Theatres

Systematic inspection of cinemas and theatres was continued throughout the year to ensure the proper cleansing of premises, seats, staff rooms and sanitary conveniences and the maintenance of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences for the use of the patrons and employees. In addition to day-time inspections, 210 special inspections were made during the evening performances to check the efficiency of ventilation and heating systems by tests using the Kata Thermometer and a Hygrometer. In 16 cinemas and 2 theatres unsatisfactory results were recorded at different times during the year. Notices were served on the management in these instances. Major alterations and additions were carried out to the ventilating plant in 3 cinemas and minor alterations and adjustments were carried out in 14 cinemas and 2 theatres. Re-tests of the air showed improvements.

In one cinema additional sanitary accommodation was provided. To carry out the work it was found necessary to alter the stairway leading from the foyer to the balcony. Seating accommodation in the balcony was reduced to provide space for intervening ventilated space to the water closet apartments. The existing female conveniences in the foyer were demolished and re-constructed to suit present day requirements. A properly constructed intervening ventilated space was provided to the male sanitary conveniences in the stalls.

Washing facilities were provided. The interior of the cinema was redecorated and all seating accommodation in the stalls was modernised.

Number of cinemas in City	41
Number of theatres in City	4
Inspections by Sanitary Officers (including evening inspections) ..	988
Number of defects discovered and remedied	112

Dance Halls

There are 69 premises licensed in the City for public dancing, singing, music, boxing and other forms of public entertainment under Section 31 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1934. In addition there are approximately 170 premises where entertainment is carried on. Admission to the latter is by membership card. During the year 153 inspections were made: these included 66 evening visits at a time when dancing was in progress and 60 air tests were made by means of the Kata Thermometer and a Hygrometer.

In 4 dance halls the readings recorded air conditions below the minimum standard necessary for the health and comfort of the patrons. Statutory notices were served on the owners where unsatisfactory results were recorded setting out the work necessary. In one dance hall a complete new mechanical ventilating system was installed and subsequent tests showed a marked improvement in air conditions.

Number of Inspections (including evening inspections)	153
Number of defects discovered during the year	67

The following is a summary of defective conditions found in licensed and private dance halls inspected:—

TABLE B 9

Nature of Defect	Instances	Notices served	Remedied	Outstanding
Insufficient ventilation	2	1	2	—
Dirty or defective conditions	1	1	1	—
Other damp or defective conditions	5	3	7	—
Sanitary conveniences:—				
Not provided with proper intervening ventilated spaces	5	3	4	2
Not provided for each sex	2	2	—	—
Not properly screened	4	4	2	2
Not properly lighted	3	2	3	—
Not properly ventilated	3	—	—	—
In a dirty state	6	3	6	—
In a defective condition	4	3	—	3
Insufficient urinal accommodation	2	1	1	2
Other defects	4	1	1	—
TOTAL	41	24	27*	9

* Defects remedied include outstanding defects from previous year.

One report was forwarded to the City Surveyor regarding a dangerous wall which was subsequently demolished.

Public Sanitary Conveniences

A modern permanent convenience has been completed at Durham Street. During the year additional lavatory facilities were provided at the City Cemetery and new public conveniences completed at Woodvale and Ormeau Parks.

Public sanitary conveniences in City (including parks and playgrounds)	130
Inspections by Sanitary Officers during the year	1,974

Drain Tests

During the year 544 drain tests were carried out (including tests made by Pest Control and Factories and Shops sections). 326 tests were made as a result of complaints of the ingress of rats into premises. 328 drains showed defects by smoke machine test: of this number 132 had been tested by reason of complaint of rats and the remaining 196 because of complaints of offensive odours and other causes. A notice under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts was served on the owner in each case where defects were discovered and repairs were subsequently carried out. New drains laid in place of those found to be defective were tested by the water test.

House drains completely re-laid	108
House drains repaired	285
Drain pipes, bends, traps, gullies, etc., used in repair of drains	1,132

Provision of Ashbins

Notices served under Section 44, Belfast Corporation Act, 1930 . .	224
Summonses issued for non-compliance with notices	2
Ashbins provided during the year	539

Marine Stores

Inspections during the year 361

The periodical treatment of all rag stores to eradicate vermin continued throughout the year. The Pest Officers carried out 228 treatments and the cost was charged to the respective proprietors.

The following table shows a summary of inspections under the By-Laws relating to Marine Stores and action taken by Sanitary Officers of the Factory and Shops Section to remedy defects discovered:—

TABLE B 10

Nature of Defect	Instances	Notices Served	Remedied	Outstanding
Walls in rooms not rendered vermin proof	5	2	3	3
Rooms not enclosed or provided with a proper roof or ceiling	5	2	3	3
Rooms not properly lighted	2	1	2	2
Rooms not properly ventilated	4	2	5	1
Rooms not provided with suitable floor	2	1	2	2
Materials stored so as to obstruct lighting or ventilation . .	4	1	4	—
Dustbins not provided or trade refuse not removed weekly	1	—	1	—
Premises not kept in a clean state	6	2	6	—
Walls, ceilings, partitions, etc., required re-decoration . .	6	2	6	—
Premises, apparatus, utensils not kept in a state of repair	6	6	3	3
Yards, loading bays, etc., not properly surfaced . .	2	1	1	2
Other defects	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	46	23	39*	19

* Defects remedied include outstanding defects from previous year.

The above defects refer to contraventions under the By-Laws only. Other matters relating to the welfare of workers are dealt with under the Factories Acts, (Northern Ireland), 1938 and 1949 and the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946 and are not included in the above table.

Two premises were found during inspection to be totally unsuitable for the trade carried on therein and on representation by the Department closed down voluntarily.

Offensive Trades

These businesses require careful and regular supervision largely because of their nature and the offensive condition of the raw materials used. There are seventeen businesses in the City registered as offensive trades, consisting of six hide and skin merchants, three fat melters, two bone boilers, three gut scrapers and three tripe cleaners and boilers. During the year, eleven complaints were received by the Department concerning offensive smells, etc. Action was taken under the By-Laws in every case where a nuisance was found to exist.

Number of inspections during the year 356

Primary and Secondary School Buildings

Work is in progress in the erection of two large secondary intermediate schools, Orangefield Boys and Dunlambert Boys, two primary schools, Greenwood and Clara Park, two major extensions to existing schools (Everton and Grosvenor) to bring them fully up to accommodation standards for secondary intermediate education and two new primary schools, Wheatfield Infants and Ulidia. When completed these schools will add 3,360 secondary school places and 1,480 primary school places to county school accommodation in the City.

Three primary schools—Bloomfield, Euston Street Junior and St. Paul's—were closed. St. Marks became a reorganised primary school by the transfer of senior pupils to Everton. Tudor Lodge Nursery School was accepted on transfer from the owners and became a county school.

A site of 11 acres at Springhill was acquired for a primary school of 560 places to serve the new housing estates between the Ballygomartin and Springfield Roads and to relieve overcrowding at Ballymurphy Temporary, Forth River and Springfield Schools. This site adjoins the Ballygomartin Boys' Secondary Intermediate School. Temporary accommodation for Forth River Primary School was secured by the renting of church halls to tide over the emergency shortage of school places in the district. Additional accommodation was provided at Springfield Primary School by the division of the former cookery room. Another school subject to overcrowding due to Corporation housing development is Carr's Glen Primary School and the science and art rooms were partitioned to provide additional teaching spaces.

Some dislocation of school organisation occurred at Mersey Street Primary School during reinstatement of war damage. Bloomfield School building was brought back into use for some months, a church hall was rented and two classes had to move temporarily to Strand Primary School. Tenders were accepted towards the end of the year for the new buildings for Grosvenor High School at Orangefield and for Ashfield Girls Grammar School at Carolan Road.

During the year surveys carried out in schools resulted in intimation notices being sent to the Director of Education and to Managers of voluntary schools for the following defects: insufficient or defective sanitary accommodation, defective roofs, spouting and walls, insufficient or unsuitable number of points provided for drinking water, insufficient washing facilities, insufficient heating, inadequate ventilation, lack of cleanliness of school buildings, foul and defective wastepipes, gully traps and drains, defective dust-bins. Redecoration was also requested in respect of a number of school buildings. In 3 instances it was necessary to issue statutory notices on Managers of voluntary schools for failing to cleanse the premises and to provide adequate sanitary and washing facilities.

During the year a statutory notice under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946 was served on the Manager of a voluntary school to cease using an old dilapidated building as an overflow for three classes. The pupils were transferred to the main school building during the latter part of the year.

Nursery Schools	6
County Primary Schools	81
Voluntary Primary Schools under School Committees	3
Voluntary Primary Schools under Lay Management	1
Voluntary Primary Schools under Roman Catholic Management	63
Special Schools	6
County Secondary Schools	14
Voluntary Secondary Schools	17
Inspections by Sanitary Officers during the year	690
Defects notified by School Health Service	37
Defects discovered by Sanitary Officers	83
Intimations concerning defects sent to Director of Education	16
Intimations concerning defects sent to Managers of Voluntary Schools	33
Sanitary improvements effected	18

Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts, 1876 to 1893

Number of rivers in City	22
Inspections by Sanitary Officers during the year	1,265
Nuisances discovered and abated	29

Parliamentary powers have been obtained to enable the Corporation to carry out the Blackstaff River Improvement Scheme and plans are being prepared for a culvert from the junction of Donegall Road and Broadway to the River Lagan, a considerable length of which will be constructed as a thirteen foot diameter tunnel at a depth of up to forty feet below the surface. During periods of storm the culvert will divert water from the Blackstaff River and thus prevent the river rising to flood level.

In the early part of 1956 the Health Committee considered a report on the polluted condition of the Blackstaff River, caused by the discharge of inadequately treated effluent from the sewage disposal works of the Belfast Rural District Council at Andersonstown. Results of chemical analysis of samples of the river water, taken at the point of discharge of the outfall from these works, showed that, although purification had taken place, it had not proceeded far enough to bring the effluent to the generally accepted standards of purity. Bacteriological examination of samples of the river water proved that there was heavy contamination by pathogenic organisms. Owing to the serious nature of the problem, the Health Committee decided to refer the complaint to the Ministry of Health and Local Government and to request that they approach the Council with a view to expediting the abatement of the nuisance.

The Ministry subsequently informed the Town Clerk that a proposal for the provision of additional sewage disposal works at Upper Falls had been under consideration for some time. Discussions as to the design and capacity of the new works took place recently between the Ministry's Engineers, the Consulting Engineer and the Engineer to the Council. It was agreed that the proposals would be approved in principle by the Ministry as soon as they were received. The Consulting Engineer undertook to submit the proposals to the Belfast Rural District Council without delay.

In the latter part of the year complaints were received that a section of the Blackstaff River adjoining dwelling houses in Stockman's Lane at a point which forms the boundary between the Belfast County Borough and the Belfast Rural District was in a state of nuisance, due to the ponding of flood water containing a large amount of sewage matter discharged into the river by overflows from the Belfast Corporation and the Lisburn Rural District Council sewers. The ponding of the river was caused by the filling in of low lying ground by the dumping of rubbish adjacent to the river bed, some of which entered the river and caused an obstruction. The City Surveyor stated that the Corporation had no power to deepen the bed of the river but undertook to clear any obstruction so as to reduce flooding to a minimum.

During heavy rains flooding occurred at Findon Link, at a point where the stream enters a culvert protected by an iron grid. The obstruction was removed by workmen employed by the City Surveyor's Department. Work continued on culverting and filling in a water course situated between the pre-fabricated bungalows and the railway on the Shore Road. Flooding occurred in a section of the Knock River adjacent to Clarawood Crescent during heavy rains in the month of January.

During a routine inspection by one of the Sanitary Officers it was observed that an offensive coloured matter containing oil was being discharged into the Knock River from a large manufacturing concern whose works are situated in the Castlereagh Rural District Council area. The complaint was reported to the Medical Officer of Health of County Down.

The Loop River overflowed its banks at a point adjacent to Elmgrove Primary School due to the blocking of a weir by tree trunks which had floated down the river from a new housing estate. The obstructions were removed by the City Surveyor's Department. Trade effluent from the works of a building firm was discovered to be discharging directly into the River Lagan. Appropriate action was taken by the Department to deal with the matter.

An inspection revealed an accumulation of bedding (including wire mattresses), paper and other rubbish in the bed of a section of the Seaview River between Shore Road and Fortwilliam Parade. The obstructions were removed by workmen of the City Surveyor's Department. A section of the Farset River was obstructed by the dumping of builder's debris into the river bed: this was removed.

During the year samples of water were taken from the following rivers for bacteriological examination:—

Blackstaff 18; Connswater 6; Clowney 5; Carr's Glen 7; Downview 6; Deerpark 3; Falls 5; Farset 7; Forth 13; Glenwood 13; Greencastle 3; Knock 12; Loop 17; Lagan 9; Parkmount 3; Pound Burn 4; Seaview 3. All samples were returned by the Public Health Laboratory as showing a high bacterial count indicating that the rivers and streams are subject to pollution. The result of samples of river water submitted for chemical analysis showed undigested sewage matter present. The samples did not conform to the accepted standard for sewage effluents either as regards suspended solids or oxygen loss in five-day test.

Barbers and Hairdressers

Routine inspections of these premises were carried out during the year, to ascertain if the By-Laws were complied with. Where breaches of these were discovered in registered premises, warnings were given to occupiers. During the year five persons were discovered to be carrying on business in premises not registered with the Sanitary Authority in accordance with the Hairdressers Act (Northern Ireland) 1939. In one instance it was necessary to institute legal proceedings against the occupier of premises for carrying on a hairdressing business and failing to register with the local authority.

Inspections of registered premises during the year	3,134
Registered at 1st January, 1956	412
Registered during the year	12
Deleted during the year	11
Registered at 31st December, 1956..	413

Common Lodging Houses

At 31st December, 1956, there were five lodging houses in the City considered to be within the definition and accordingly subject to registration and control under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts and By-Laws. The five houses provide accommodation for 766 males: one with 368 beds is owned by the Corporation and the other four by social organizations.

Inspections by Sanitary Officers during the year	93

Smoke Abatement

During the year work in this field of environmental health continued and was considerably intensified in the later months by the appointment of a full-time qualified Smoke Inspector.

District Sanitary Officers continue to take smoke observations of factory chimneys in their respective districts and when smoke of such density and duration as to constitute a public health nuisance is observed the complaint is referred to the Smoke Inspector for investigation.

The introduction of comparable legislation similar to the Clean Air Act, 1956, which deals with smoke pollution in Great Britain, is still awaited in Northern Ireland. The Ministry of Health and Local Government informed the Belfast Health Committee that they were studying the progress of the Act of 1956, before deciding on action to deal with the problem in Northern Ireland. Section 36 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, prescribes that, notwithstanding anything in the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, the Parliament of Northern Ireland shall have power to make laws for any purposes similar to any of the purposes of the Clean Air Act, 1956. The legislation at present applicable in Northern Ireland is in the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, which is hopelessly out-of-date by comparison with the vast strides which have taken place in science and engineering over the last few years.

It has been found that the rising cost of fuel is making industrialists more conscious of the waste due to the formation of smoke, which has been estimated to account for 10 per cent of the total heat value of the fuel. An ever increasing number of firms have changed from the use of hand firing of coal to fuel oil burning for steam raising although the international situation has temporarily hampered further progress in this direction. Fuel oil, though not *naturally* a smokeless fuel, can, with proper care and maintenance, be burned under satisfactory conditions and it has been found that such an installation after initial setting and adjustment can be operated without smoke. In fact, it is in the interests of the user to avoid smoke emission.

It has been found that engineers and boiler house staff as a whole are willing to co-operate in smoke abatement, especially when it has been pointed out that an unduly high amount of smoke is emitted from the chimney of a particular plant. As would be expected, the greatest amount of smoke is emitted from a plant which is hand fired and a considerable amount of the smoke inspector's time is taken up in the instruction of firemen on the elementary principles of combustion.

It is a pity that boiler house staff do not avail themselves of the opportunity to attend classes in preparation for the Boiler Operator's Certificate of the City and Guilds Institute, which are now being held in the City. As fuel burning appliances are now becoming mechanised and equipped with instruments in order to achieve greater efficiency, it is important that firemen should be able to understand these appliances and to operate them efficiently in conjunction with the instrument readings. The evolution of fuel burning appliances will eventually make it necessary for all operators to obtain a recognised certificate of practical and theoretical training.

There has been an increase in the number of Statutory notices issued during the year requiring the abatement of smoke nuisance. Whilst action was taken in the majority of cases to ensure an improvement in operating conditions, it was necessary to issue four summonses on the owners of works, where repeated warnings had failed to produce any improvement. The Magistrates took a serious view of this form of pollution; in one case a fine of £5 was imposed and Court Orders were made requiring improvements in the remaining three cases.

Considerable trouble was experienced from the discharge of black smoke from funnels of ships using the port, especially coal-burning cross-channel passenger vessels, but the position somewhat improved towards the end of the year by the withdrawal from service of two coal burning vessels and replacement by vessels burning oil. An improvement was also effected by action taken by the Department against a firm in respect of an oil barge which was found to be emitting black smoke for prolonged periods whilst supplying oil to other vessels using the port.

There are approximately 300 factory chimneys and 120,000 domestic chimneys in the City in addition to railway engines, shipping and road vehicles all of which pollute the air of the City. Although most of the work carried out to secure cleaner air is directed against industry, it should not be forgotten that domestic users are responsible for approximately 50 per cent of the total pollution. The use of all-night domestic fire burners does undoubtedly add further to the smoke emitted. The solution to the problem would appear to be encouragement of openable type stoves burning a smokeless fuel which are compulsory in many new housing estates throughout Great Britain.

Records of the amount of solid matter, sulphur and smoke continue to be kept by means of deposit gauges, lead peroxide instruments and a volumetric daily recording instrument set up in the City. The results obtained from these instruments are a guide to the amount of pollution in the atmosphere and will enable comparisons to be made over the years. Already the records show that atmospheric pollution in Belfast is greater than in Manchester, Birmingham, Coventry and Huddersfield.

The ten deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments situated throughout the City show results comparable with those recorded in 1955, the sites at Ormeau Avenue and Station Street showing the highest amount of solid matter, whilst Musgrave Channel Road site, which is in close proximity to the Electric Power Station East continues to show the highest concentration of sulphur dioxide.

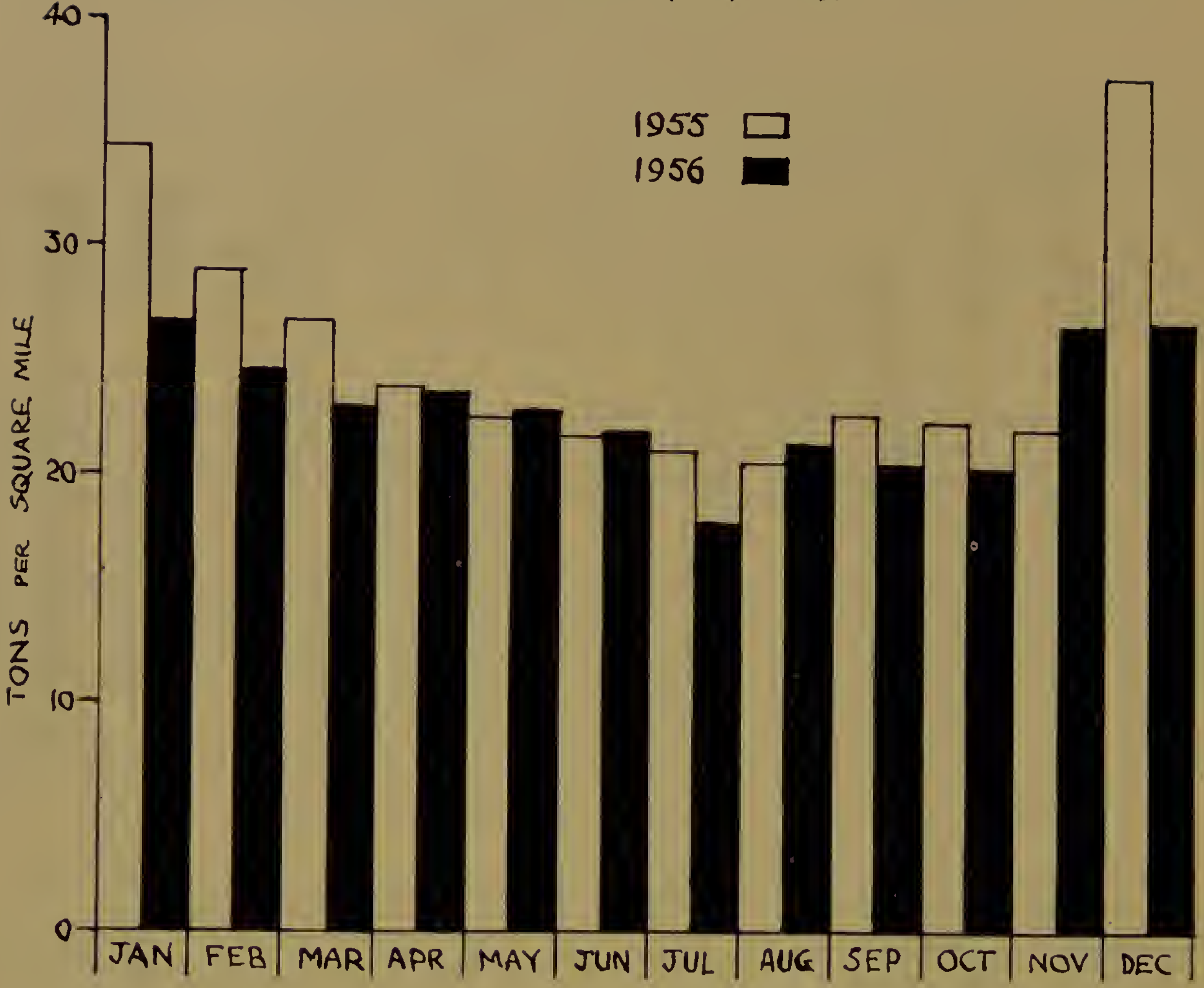
As the volumetric daily recorder was first brought into use in September, 1955, it is too early to draw conclusions, but a drop in the concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide is shown for November and December, 1956, when compared with the previous figures available. This could possibly be attributed to the better weather experienced during the year with less fog prevailing. It is rather alarming to see the smoke stain left and the amount of sulphur absorbed by this instrument after a period of fog when compared with normal conditions.

The following table shows the work done in connection with smoke abatement during 1956:—

Timed observations (each over a continuous period of 30 minutes)	942
Number of minutes black smoke observed	1,698
Average number of minutes black smoke per 30 minutes observation	1.8
Statutory Notices served	42
Verbal notices given	60
Plant inspections and advisory visits	246
Complaints investigated	24
Prosecutions	4
Number of factory chimneys (approx.)	300

GRAPH 1

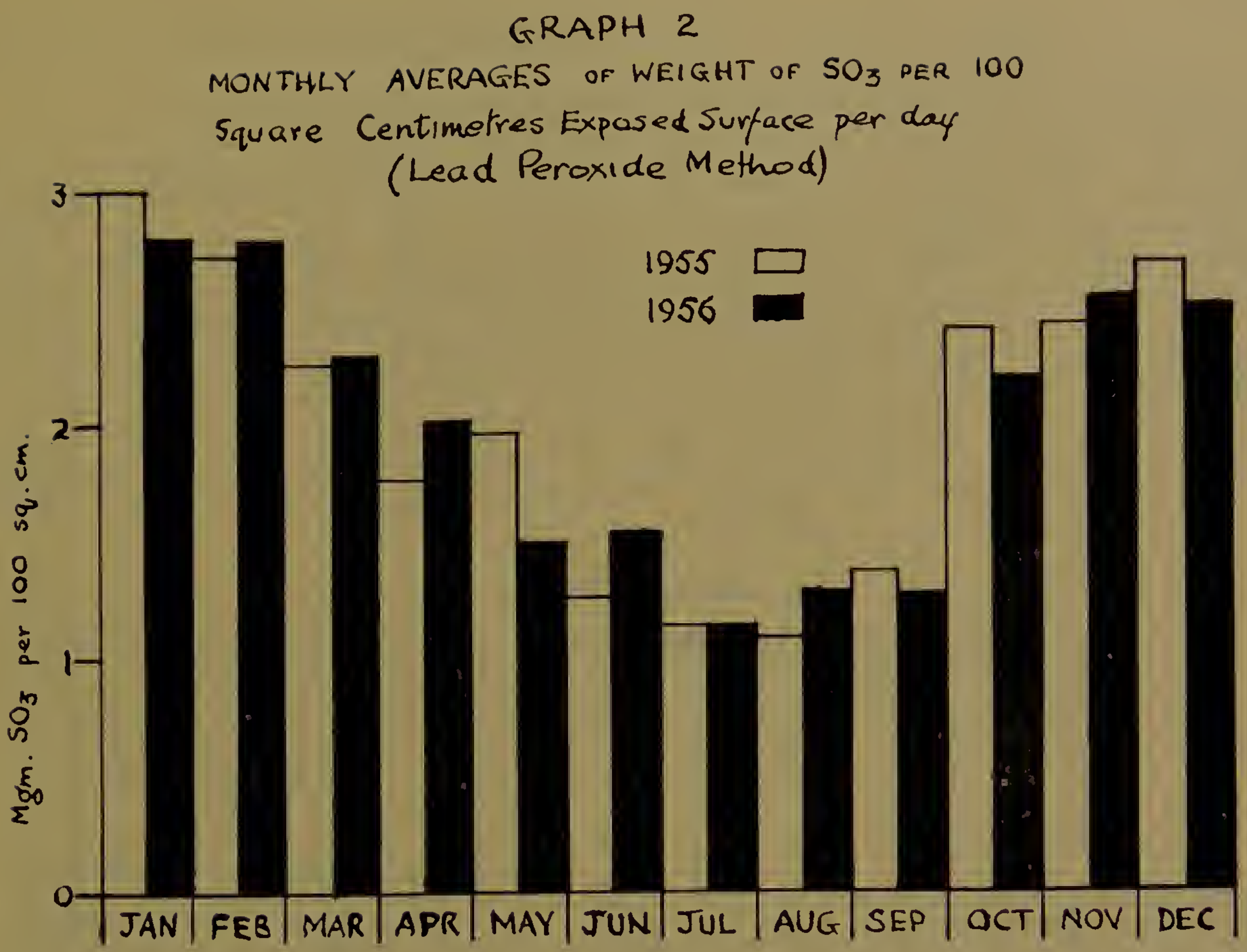
MONTHLY AVERAGES OF SOLID MATTER DEPOSITED IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE



Solid matter deposited in tons per square mile at collecting stations during 1956—(See also Graph 1)

TABLE B 11

Month	Stations											
	Ormeau Avenue	Blythe Street	City Cemetery	North Howard Street	Tennent Street	York Road	Bryson Street	Station Street	Musgrave Channel Road	Ravenscroft Avenue	. Totals	Averages
Jan.	27.83	37.15	7.28	27.90	40.63	30.58	22.08	24.93	31.05	16.27	265.70	26.57
Feb. . .	34.89	25.84	16.58	20.30	31.42	30.54	20.17	29.16	20.64	13.86	243.40	24.34
Mar. . .	38.57	33.69	11.51	23.68	16.79	29.14	19.33	26.92	15.24	13.76	228.63	22.86
Apr. . .	35.53	24.97	16.14	18.95	18.08	28.25	17.75	37.02	26.48	13.05	236.22	23.62
May . .	25.91	18.66	9.90	17.71	16.14	25.01	22.21	50.27	22.31	18.35	226.47	22.64
Jun. . .	27.53	19.26	10.13	17.61	19.12	26.01	18.39	35.71	31.72	13.52	219.00	21.90
Jul. . .	29.52	15.07	11.04	19.68	12.80	21.74	16.65	23.16	16.57	12.28	178.51	17.85
Aug. . .	35.26	17.85	10.64	16.08	10.54	24.88	21.91	27.89	31.91	16.24	213.20	21.32
Sep. . .	37.80	17.55	13.12	22.48	16.76	25.18	15.84	28.36	18.44	10.07	205.60	20.56
Oct. . .	23.54	18.26	9.47	18.68	15.17	23.08	20.24	29.67	32.32	12.42	202.85	20.28
Nov. . .	35.40	23.76	10.67	28.85	21.25	30.55	25.51	35.20	37.55	17.39	266.13	26.61
Dec. . .	33.61	25.40	14.80	39.02	21.45	25.94	22.42	37.08	25.14	23.39	268.25	26.82
Totals . .	385.39	277.46	141.28	270.94	240.15	320.90	242.50	385.37	309.37	180.60		
Averages	32.12	23.12	11.77	22.58	20.01	26.74	20.21	32.11	25.78	15.05		



Sulphur determination by the lead-peroxide method at the ten stations during 1956 (See also Graph 2)

TABLE B 12

Month	Stations											
	Ormeau Avenue	Blythe Street	City Cemetery	North Howard Street	Tennent Street	York Road	Bryson Street	Station Street	Musgrave Channel Road	Ravenscroft Avenue	Totals	Monthly Averages
Jan. ..	2.8	2.4	0.6	4.1	2.1	3.2	3.6	3.0	3.8	2.3	27.9	2.79
Feb. ..	2.6	2.4	1.1	3.4	2.1	3.7	3.3	4.1	2.8	2.2	27.7	2.77
Mar. ..	2.7	1.9	1.1	3.2	2.3	2.7	2.5	3.1	1.8	1.5	22.8	2.28
Apr. ..	1.7	1.5	0.74	2.1	1.3	2.5	2.2	2.3	4.4	1.3	20.0	2.00
May ..	1.4	1.0	0.36	1.6	0.9	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.7	1.2	14.8	1.48
Jun. ..	1.3	0.9	0.29	1.2	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.4	5.7	1.1	15.2	1.52
Jul. ..	1.0	0.7	0.36	1.6	0.54	1.3	1.2	1.5	2.3	0.7	11.2	1.12
Aug.	1.1	0.9	0.36	1.2	0.7	1.4	1.35	1.5	3.2	1.0	12.7	1.27
Sep. ..	1.35	0.9	0.63	1.4	1.0	2.0	1.35	1.7	1.3	0.8	12.4	1.24
Oct. ..	1.8	1.8	0.5	2.7	1.4	2.3	2.5	2.3	4.6	1.7	21.6	2.16
Nov. ..	2.2	1.9	0.54	3.5	1.8	2.4	3.1	2.9	4.4	2.2	24.9	2.49
Dec. ..	2.6	2.2	0.7	4.0	2.2	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.2	1.9	24.5	2.45
Totals ..	22.55	18.5	7.28	30.0	17.14	27.5	26.8	28.9	39.2	17.9		
Averages	1.88	1.54	0.61	2.50	1.43	2.29	2.23	2.41	3.27	1.49		

The analysis of the matter collected in the deposit gauges and of the lead peroxide cylinders was carried out by the Public Analyst, H. K. Lawton, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C.

Rainfall at ten Deposit Gauge Stations for 1956

TABLE B 13

Station	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Rainfall in Inches											
Ormeau Ave. ..	3.55	1.18	1.81	1.65	1.14	3.15	2.88	6.58	3.03	2.09	1.46	4.37
Blythe St. ..	3.74	1.30	2.01	1.85	1.30	3.27	3.07	6.70	3.11	2.29	1.46	4.65
City Cemetery ..	3.74	1.42	1.93	2.09	1.42	3.31	3.62	7.37	3.23	2.64	1.42	3.74
Nth. Howard St. ..	3.66	1.14	1.81	1.54	1.02	2.80	3.39	6.03	3.35	2.29	1.38	4.29
Tennent St. ..	3.66	1.14	1.62	1.26	1.06	2.92	3.55	5.48	3.51	2.13	1.10	4.45
York Road ..	3.31	1.02	1.54	1.18	0.87	2.21	3.19	5.32	3.31	1.89	1.54	3.74
Bryson St. ..	3.51	1.14	1.69	1.34	1.18	2.29	3.62	6.23	3.23	2.01	1.58	4.65
Station St. ..	3.51	1.02	1.77	1.42	1.18	2.52	3.39	5.59	3.11	2.09	1.58	5.20
Musgrave Channel Rd. ..	2.99	1.02	1.18	1.02	0.87	1.73	3.03	5.00	3.23	1.85	1.06	2.56
Ravenscroft Ave. ..	3.47	0.95	1.62	0.83	0.83	2.09	3.27	6.38	3.11	1.54	1.26	4.29
Monthly Average ..	3.51	1.13	1.69	1.41	1.08	2.62	3.30	6.06	3.22	2.08	1.38	4.19

Volumetric Method

Concentration of smoke and sulphur dioxide by the Volumetric method

TABLE B14

Month	Smoke (Milligrams per cubic metre)		Sulphur Dioxide (Parts per million)	
	Monthly Average	Highest Daily Value	Monthly Average	Highest Daily Value
January	0.380	0.976	0.095	0.200
February ..	0.392	0.820	0.105	0.209
March	0.243	0.316	0.065	0.109
April	0.226	0.462	0.056	0.111
May	0.151	0.240	0.048	0.067
June	0.092	0.158	0.023	0.054
July	0.077	0.160	0.017	0.030
August	0.106	0.231	0.015	0.029
September ..	0.128	0.234	0.015	0.032
October	0.180	0.462	0.083	0.027
November ..	0.204	0.316	0.016	0.029
December ..	0.234	0.664	0.015	0.027

PORT SANITARY

(I). Amount of Shipping entering tne Port during the year

TABLE B 15

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number recorded as defective	Ships on which defects have been remedied	Ships reported as having had infectious disease on board during the voyage
			By Medical Officer	By Sanitary Officer			
FOREIGN: Steamers Motors	714	1,031,116	80	714	87	81	3
COASTWISE: Steamers Motors	7,303	4,293,393	21	1,347	130	128	16
TOTAL	8,017	5,324,509	101	2,061	217	209	19

(II). Character of Trade of Port

(a) Passenger Traffic (other than coastwise) during the year.

TABLE B 16

	Aliens		British		Total		Refused leave to land
	Forces	Civilians	Forces	Civilians	Forces	Civilians	
Inwards by ship	—	82	—	329	—	411	4
Inwards by Aircraft ..	102	249	—	278	102	527	—
TOTAL	102	331	—	607	102	938	4
							Refused leave to embark
Outwards by ship	—	47	—	715	—	762	—
Outwards by Aircraft ..	79	34	—	346	79	380	—
TOTAL	79	81	—	1061	79	1142	—

(b) **Cargo Traffic:**

Principal Imports: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Linseed, Pollards, Timber, Flax, Ores, Paper, Iron, Steel, Coal, Fertilisers, Oil, Flour, Bran, Cattle Fodder, Tobacco, Fruit, Wines, Ales.

Principal Exports: Machinery, Ropes, Linen, Yarns, Tobacco, Cigarettes, Potatoes, Grass seed, Eggs, Poultry, Apples, Live Cattle, Whiskey.

(c) **Foreign ports from which ships arrived:—**

Aalesund 1; Abo 3; Agadir 2; Albany 4; Almeria 1; Amsterdam 5; Amundy Bay 1; Antwerp 21; Archangel 7; Arendal 1; Arklow 1; Ballina 1; Baltimore 13; Basra 1; Beira 17; Bergen 3; Bollsta. 3; Bordeaux 1; Boston 1; Boulogne 1; Bremen 9; Buenos Aires 1; Burriana 1; Buruti 1; Caen 4; Calcutta 3; Capetown 1; Casablanca 15; Caripito 1; Cartagena 3; Ceuta 1; Chalna 6; Charleston 1; Colombo 1; Constanza 2; Cork 3; Corpus Christi 1; Dakar 15; Dalhousie 1; Dar-es-Salaam 4; Den Helden 1; Dieppe 1; Digby 1; Drogheda 2; Dublin 27; Dundalk 3; Dunkirk 5; Durban 2; Egersund 1; Esbjerg 2; Famagusta 4; Floro 1; Fremantle 6; Galveston 6; Geelong 4; Genoa 4; Geraldton 2; Ghent 52; Gothenburg 16; Guernsey 48; Hamburg 18; Hamina 3; Hango 2; Helsinki 3; Hommelvik 1; Horsens 2; Honfleur 3; Houston 1; Huelva 4; Killybegs 1; Kotka 8; Lagos 4; La Pallice 1; Leghorn 3; Leixoes 9; Leningrad 3; Letterkenny 6; Limassol 3; Lisbon 2; Liverpool, N.S. 1; Lorient 1; Lourenco Marques 1; Mantyluoto 4; Marans 2; Marseilles 5; Matadi 1; Melbourne 1; Melos 1; Memel 1; Messina 1; Mobile 3; Mombassa 2; Montreal 25; Mostaganem 5; Murmansk 1; Nantes 2; Naples 2; Nemours 1; Norfolk 12; Newcastle, N.B. 1; New Ross 2; New Westminster 1; New York 1; Odense 2; Oran 4; Oslo 7; Ostend 3; Palermo 1; Philippeville 3; Philadelphia 2; Piraeus 1; Port Albernie 1; Porto Alegre 1; Port Churchill 1; Port Harcourt 1; Port Lyautey 1; Port Pirrie 2; Port Nelson 1; Prince Rupert I. 3; Quebec 3; Ramspol 1; Rangoon 1; Rauma 1; Reykjavik 2; Rosario 2; Rotterdam 56; Rouen 25; Sapele 1; Siglejore 1; Skien 2; Sligo 1; Sorel 4; South Nelson 1; Spezia 1; Stavanger 1; St. Johns 17; Sydney 2; Takoradi 1; Tanga 1; Three Rivers 4; Trequier 2; Treport 7; Tonnay Chaurente 1; Valencia 11; Vancouver 7; Villa Constituan 1; Vizagapatam 4; Wallaroo 1; Walvis Bay 1; Warri 3; Weismar 1; Weymouth 1; Westport 1; Wicklow 1; Zxpila 2; Zygi 1; Zanzibar 1.

The nationality of the ships which arrived at the port and were inspected was as follows:—

American 5; Argentina 2; Belgian 8; British 1,508; Bulgarian 1; Canadian 2; Danish 28; Dutch 354; Finnish 6; French 1; German 28; Greek 1; Hondurian 1; Icelandic 2; Israeli 2; Italian 7; Liberian 9; Norwegian 36; Panamanian 9; Republic of Ireland 25; Russian 1; Spanish 8; Swedish 8; Swiss 2.

The Aliens Order 1953: (S.I. 1671/1953)

Under Articles 30 and 33 of the above Order, Dr. W. G. Swann, Dr. J. McA. Taggart, Dr. W. J. McLeod, and Dr. A. L. Walby have been appointed by the Ministry of Health and Local Government as Medical Inspectors for the Port of Belfast for the purposes of the Order.

Ships carrying aliens—30 inwards; 27 outwards	..	57
Aircraft carrying aliens—20 inwards; 12 outwards	..	32

III. Water Supply

(*a*) and (*b*) for Port and Shipping:—

The water supply for the port and shipping is taken from the mains which supply the City and the surrounding districts of Belfast.

The supply is controlled by the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners who have hydrants on all quays and wharves.

(*c*) Water Boats:—
There are no waterboats at the port.

17 samples of water were taken on board ships and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. 2 of these samples were reported as highly satisfactory and 15 samples as unsatisfactory because of the presence of coliform organisms, which in 2 cases were of faecal origin.

IV. Public Health (Ships) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1954

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declaration of Health Forms:—

Declaration of Health Forms as recommended by the Association of Sea and Air Port Health Authorities of the British Isles are in use at the Port. Special instructions relative to the Port of Belfast are given on the fourth page and a supply of these forms is distributed to H.M. Customs Officers and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners for the use of the Pilotage service.

A Declaration of Health Form signed by the master and countersigned by the Ship's Surgeon (where one is carried) is received from each ship arriving at the port from a foreign port. The Declaration of Health Form is received by the Customs Officer or the Port Sanitary Officer on the arrival of the ship. The answers to the questions contained in the Declaration are scrutinised and supplementary questions asked.

In cases where the Customs Officer first boards the ship and the Declaration of Health is satisfactory, pratique is granted. If the Declaration of Health is not satisfactory, the circumstances are immediately reported to the Port Medical Officer, who makes investigations before passengers or crew are allowed to land.

Ships arriving at the port are required to display the appropriate quarantine signals laid down in the regulations.

2. Boarding of ships on arrival:—

All ships arriving from a foreign port are boarded on arrival by an officer of H.M. Customs and an officer of the Port Sanitary Authority.

3. Notification to the Authority of Inward Ships requiring special attention:—

Arrangements for the transmission of wireless messages from inward bound ships requiring special attention under the Regulations have been made with the various shipping companies and agents in Belfast. Under the arrangements the Shipping Companies receive the wireless message required under Regulation 13 and forward the information to the Port Medical Officer.

Alternatively, or in addition, wireless messages are received direct by the Port Sanitary Authority, the telegraphic address "Portelth Belfast" having been registered for this purpose. (Regulation 14 (1) and (2)).

No land signalling system is in operation.

Close co-operation exists between the Port Sanitary Authority and the Officers of H.M. Customs and notifications of ships requiring special attention are received from the latter.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Regulations 22 to 30:—

(a) Within the Docks:—With the concurrence of H.M. Customs and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, the ordinary places of mooring, discharge or loading in relation to inward ships from foreign ports have been designated "Mooring Stations" within the docks.

(b) Outside the Docks:—The outside mooring station is situated at Carrick Roads, about three-and-a-half miles from the nearest point of the docks. Infected or suspected ships or other ships which may be unhealthy are required to proceed to established mooring stations.

5. Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Regulation 6:—

Standing exemptions from detention under Regulation 6 are granted:—

(a) In the case of ships arriving from a port or seaboard included in the list referred to in Regulation 6, unless such port or seaboard has been specially referred to in the weekly list, or special instructions have been issued in regard thereto.

(b) In the case of vessels having on board one of the common infectious diseases such as Scarlet Fever, Measles, Tuberculosis, Mumps, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Influenza, or Malaria.

During the year, 11 contacts of Dysentery, 1 contact of Paratyphoid, 2 contacts of Typhoid and 3 contacts of Poliomyelitis, whose arrival in Belfast had been advised by other Sea and Air Port Health Authorities, were kept under surveillance for the requisite periods.

6. Experience of Working of Regulation 18: restriction on boarding or leaving ships:—

In carrying out the provisions of this Regulation during the year no difficulty arose. It was not necessary to require passengers to furnish names and destinations, etc., as there was no case of infectious disease on board any ship arriving at the port which required this procedure.

7. Arrangements made for:—

Regulation 5 (c) (i): Premises or Waiting Rooms for Medical Inspection:—There are at present no premises set apart as a Customs Examination Hall, waiting rooms and rooms for medical inspection of passengers, as there are no direct passenger sailings between this port and foreign ports. Passengers who arrive by direct cargo ships from foreign ports are examined, if necessary, on board the particular ship.

Regulation 5 (c) (ii): Premises for temporary isolation of persons:—None provided.

Regulation 5 (c) (iii): Cleansing, Disinfecting or disinfestation of ships, persons or clothing:—After the removal of a case or cases of infectious disease, disinfection of the ship is carried out by the Port Sanitary Officers. Clothing and other effects are removed to the Health Committee's Disinfecting Station, Laganbank Road, where they are subjected to steam pressure disinfection. The cleansing of persons is also carried out at this station which has suitable facilities for this purpose.

Regulation 5 (d): Arrangements for reception into hospital of persons:—The Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority make provision for the reception of cases of infectious diseases at the Northern Ireland Fever Hospital, Purdysburn. Separate premises situated in the hospital grounds, but self-contained and isolated from the other hospital buildings, are available for the reception of cases of smallpox.

Regulation 5 (e): Ambulance Transport:—The port makes use of the facilities provided for ambulance transport in the City by the N.I. Hospitals Authority.

Regulation 5 (f): Supervision of Contacts:—When contacts of infectious disease are members of the crew they are kept under supervision by the Port Medical Officer. In the case of passengers or crew landing, their destinations are ascertained. Should they proceed to places outside Belfast, the Medical Officers of Health of the relevant districts are notified.

8. Arrangements for Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague:—

Bacteriological and Pathological examination of rats for Plague is carried out by arrangement with the Director of Laboratory Services, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations:—

All other bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out by arrangement with the Director of Laboratory Services, Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority.

10. Arrangements for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases among Sailors:—

Upon the arrival of ships in the port, information is given to the master as to arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease amongst sailors. Pamphlets are left on board which give the location and time of V.D. clinics. The pamphlets give warning of the danger of the disease. Every encouragement is given for attendance at the following clinics:—

The Royal Victoria Hospital
The Mater Infirmorum Hospital.

When continuation of treatment at other ports is necessary, the Sailor's Form V.44 is filled in by the Medical Officer in charge of the V.D. clinic, giving full particulars of the treatment received by the sailor.

11. Arrangements for Interment of the Dead:—

All arrangements for the interment of the dead are attended to by the shipping companies.

Cases of infectious sickness landed from ships (including coastwise ships).

TABLE B 17

DISEASE	Cases during 1956		Ships Concerned	Average cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Dysentery	—	1	1	—
Influenza	—	3	3	3
Para Typhoid . .	—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis	11	—	11	18

Cases of infectious sickness occurring on ships during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

TABLE B 18

DISEASE	Cases during 1956		Ships Concerned	Average cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Measles	—	5	2	—
Pneumonia	—	1	1	—

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, Typhus Fever, or Relapsing Fever occurred, and no plague-infected rats were discovered during the year.

V. Measures Against Rodents.

1. Steps taken for detection of rodent plague:—

In Ships in Port:—All ships arriving from ports where plague is endemic are boarded by the Port Sanitary Officer as soon as possible after berthing. Enquiries are made as to the prevalence of rats on board, and as to whether any sick or dead rats were found during the voyage. The ships are then inspected to ascertain the degree of rat infestation, and are periodically inspected during the time they remain in port in order to ascertain if any dead rats have been found in the cargo.

2. Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ship and shore:—

All ships arriving from foreign ports are required to affix rat-guards to all moorings and maintain them so fixed during the time they are in port. It is also recommended that the gangway or other communication with the shore should be raised at least eighteen inches from the ground.

3. Methods of Deratting of Ships, etc.:—

(a) Ships: Deratting of ships is carried out by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide. The fumigation is carried out by contractors under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officers, the minimum concentration being two ounces per thousand cubic feet with a minimum of two hours exposure.

(b) Premises in the vicinity of docks, quays, etc.:—The various shipping companies and occupiers of premises in the vicinity of the docks carry out at the request of the Port Medical Officer, such work as may be necessary to exterminate rats. Notices are issued, if necessary, under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and are served on the occupiers of the premises.

4. Measures taken for Detection of Rats in Ships and on Shore:—

(a) In Ships:—Ships arriving in the Port are inspected by the Port Sanitary Officers who ascertain whether or not they are infested with rats.

(b) On Shore:—Stores in the vicinity of the docks are inspected regularly for the detection of rats.

5. Rat Proofing:—

(a) Extent to which docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., are ratproof:—

The docks and wharves on the County Antrim side of the Port are so constructed as to be as nearly ratproof as possible. The floors of the sheds and warehouses and the roadways leading thereto are constructed of concrete or granite setts laid on concrete.

On the County Down side the wharves are mostly erected on piles and these afford a certain amount of harbourage, but as these are used principally for the discharge of coal, ores, steel, etc., they are not so attractive to rats as those where grain and foodstuffs are landed.

(b) Action to extend ratproofing:—

(1) In Ships:—Efforts are directed toward sealing vulnerable places such as provision stores and pantries where food is kept. This is generally done by encasing with sheet metal and closing the means of access for rats between one apartment and another so as to make them as ratproof as possible.

(2) On Shore:—Periodical inspections are made by the Port Sanitary Officers to see that the various premises in the vicinity of the docks are kept in good condition.

Most owners and occupiers of the premises are aware of the damage caused by rats to merchandise and take every precaution to prevent the access of rats to their premises.

Number of Rats Destroyed during the year

(1) On Ships:—

TABLE B 19

Species	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black	1	—	10	—	—	22	—	—	21	—	—	—	54
Brown . .	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5

Note: In addition, 38 mice were destroyed.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves, Warehouses:—

TABLE B 20

Species	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown . .	10	—	4	4	2	—	8	—	2	7	13	2	52

The numbers in the above Table include only those which came to the notice of the Port Sanitary Officers.

The sheds and stores on the Harbour Commissioners estates, those of the Ship Building Yards, and the Belfast Corporation Harbour Power Stations, are baited regularly by a firm who are engaged in rat and insect pest control. This firm has been putting down poisoned baits with effective results and a marked reduction in rat population.

Measures of rat destruction on plague "infested" or "suspected" ships or ships from plague-infected ports arriving during the year:—

No plague "infested" or "suspected" ships arrived in the Port of Belfast during the year.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year:—

TABLE B 21

Net Tonnage	Ships	Deratting Certificates Issued				Total	Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.			
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur				
Up to 300 tons	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
From 301 tons to 1,000 tons ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
From 1,001 to 3,000 tons ..	15	5	—	—	—	5	10	15
From 3,001 to 10,000 tons ..	24	5	—	—	—	5	19	24
Over 10,000 tons	3	1	—	—	—	1	2	3
TOTAL	58	11	—	—	—	11	47	58

VI. Hygiene of Crews Spaces:

Classification of Nuisances:—

TABLE B 22

Nationality of Ship	Inspected during 1956	Defects of Original Construction	Structural Defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin, and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	1,508	—	33	283
Other Nationalities	553	—	9	49

The defects found consisted of:—

TABLE B 23

	British	Other Nations
Defects due to wear and tear:—		
W.C. joints	4	2
W.C. flushing valves	5	—
W.C. basins	—	1
Wash basins	1	—
Discharge to W.C.	1	—
W.C. seats	2	1
Stoves	2	—
Flue pipes to stoves	3	2
Portlights	9	2
Decks	4	1
Drinking water filters (overhauled)	1	—
Other conditions:—		
Quarters, washplaces, galleys and messrooms required cleansing ..	78	27
Water closets required cleaning	86	10
Quarters, washplaces, messrooms, galleys, pantries, provision store-rooms and W.C. apartments required painting	28	4
Passenger accommodation required painting	1	—
Scuppers required cleaning	30	6
Vermin: bugs, weevils, cockroaches and steam flies	23	2
Tanks required cleaning (attended to during refit)	18	—
Drinking water tanks chlorinated	1	—
Bilges required cleaning (attended to during refit)	19	—

VII. Food Inspection:

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937-1948, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1927-1953.

During the year all sheds and warehouses where food is landed or stored were inspected regularly for the detection of unsound food.

Unsound food seized or surrendered:—

TABLE B 24

Description	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Aerating Mixture	—	1	—	—
Butter	—	—	2	—
Cherries, Glace	—	2	—	—
Chewing Gum	—	—	—	4
Chocolate Vermicelli	—	—	2	6
Custard Powder	—	—	—	20
Fish (Cod Fillets)	—	1	1	—
Fish (Mixed)	—	2	2	21
Ice-cream Powder	—	—	1	—
Jellies (34 cartons of 1 doz.)	—	1	—	13
Jellies, 4 doz.	—	—	—	14
Lemon Curd (8 × 28lbs.)	—	2	—	—
Milk (Evaporated) (9lb. cans)	—	—	—	9
Pea Nuts (shelled)	—	—	2	4
Pork Pies	—	—	—	12
Pork Sausages	—	—	1	12
Pork and Beans (96 × 1lb.)	—	—	3	12
Wheat	43	18	—	—
Whip, Instant Dessert, (4 × 7lb.)	—	—	1	—
Jam filled Swiss rolls—40				
Jellies—12 (1 Pint)				

The following informal samples taken under the above regulations were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis:—

Apple Pudding 1; Apricots 1; Beetroot, Pickled 1; Cherries 1; Currants 1; Custard Powder 1; Cockles 1; Fruit Cocktail 1; Ground Nuts 1; Green Peas 1; Honey 1; Jelly-de-luxe 1; Meat Loaf 1; Megg 1; Mustard 1; Pear Halves 1; Prunes 1; Pilchards 1; Pineapple 1; Raisins 1; Sweet Corn 1; Sultanas 1; Steak, Stewed 1; Tomato Ketchup 1; Tomato Paste 1.

No milk was imported.

(2) Shellfish:—Information respecting any shellfish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority, stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Port Medical Officer, liable to pollution:—

There are no layings of shellfish within the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority.

Report of any action under the Public Health (Shellfish) N.I. Regulations 1936 or the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1954:—

Under the Belfast Corporation Act, 1930 it is an offence to gather any shellfish within the jurisdiction of the Port Area. Posters are exhibited in the vicinity of the Port area during the summer months, warning the public against the gathering of shellfish.

Smoke observations of ships' funnels

Number of observations made during the year, 89 (each 30 minutes): number observed discharging black smoke over 2 minutes in a continuous period of 30 minutes, 6: number of Statutory Notices served, 6. Following the service of these notices, a considerable improvement took place regarding the discharge of black smoke. Verbal notice was given to 6 masters regarding the volume of dark brown smoke being emitted.

Routine and other inspections not included in main report:—

999 Visits to cross-channel (passenger) ships.

224 re-inspections regarding defects, etc.

76 inspections regarding deratting and deratting exemption certificates.

FACTORIES

During the year Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories notified the Department of 22 instances in which insanitary conditions had been observed by H.M. Factory Inspectors. These were dealt with by the Health Department's inspectors. In factories where sanitary officers discovered that Abstract Notices, etc., were not exhibited in accordance with Section 120 of the Factories Act (N.I.), 1938, the Chief Inspector of Factories was notified.

Inspections for Health Provisions of the Factories Acts

TABLE B 25

PREMISES	Inspections	Notices Issued	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	2,558	166	1
Factories without mechanical power	376	14	1
*Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) . .	433	36	6
TOTAL	3,367	216	8

*Electrical stations reckoned as factories.

CONDITIONS FOUND

TABLE B 26

PARTICULARS	Instances	Remedied	Referred to Chief Factory Inspector	Prosecutions Instituted	Outstanding at end of year
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	15	12	2	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2)	2	2	1	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) . .	3	1	2	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	10	12	3	—	2
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) . .	3	3	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
Insufficient	19	19	—	—	6
Unsuitable or Defective	779	853	—	3	87
Not separate for sexes	7	6	—	—	3
Other Offences (excluding offences relating to Homework which are reported in Table B 27)	28	20	8	10	14
Breaches of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (S.56 to S.59)	5	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	871	933	16	14	113

Inspection of Factories under Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946

Nuisances discovered	150
Statutory Notices issued	59
Nuisances abated	104

Factory Outworkers

The supervision of premises in which certain classes of outwork are carried on is exercised under the provisions of Part VIII of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1938, and the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946, and is designed to prevent the employment of persons in unwholesome premises and the spread of infectious disease.

INSPECTION OF OUTWORKERS' PREMISES

TABLE B 27

Nature of Work	Inspections	Unwholesome premises (Section 115)			Infected premises (Sections 116/117)		
		Instances	Statutory Notices Served	Prosecutions	Instances	Orders made	Prosecutions (Sections 116/117)
1. Making, Cleaning, Washing, Altering, Ornamenting, Finishing and Repairing of Wearing Apparel ..	46	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Making-up, Ornamenting, Finishing and Repairing of Table Linen, Bed Linen, or other Household Linen (including in the term "linen" articles of cotton and linen mixtures)	552	5	2	—	3	1	—
3. Textile weaving and any process incidental thereto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	598	5	2	—	3	1	—

Outworkers' premises within the City, notified during the year ..	709
Notices for failing to keep or send list of outworkers	11
Outworkers notified to districts outside City	307
Outworkers notified from other districts	7
Outworkers' returns received	1,003

Bakehouses

Bakehouses on register at 1st January, 1956	265
Inspections during the year	641

Conditions discovered during year.

TABLE B 28

Nature of Defect	Instances	Notices Served	Remedied	Outstanding
Want of cleanliness in food rooms	2	2	2	—
Cleanliness of persons handling foodstuffs not observed ..	10	10	10	—
Unreasonable temperature (ventilation inadequate or not being maintained)	3	3	4	2
Inadequate provisions for rendering fumes, etc., harmless ..	2	2	2	—
Inadequate provisions for drainage of floors	3	3	3	—
Drain inlets within food rooms	3	1	3	—
Sanitary conveniences communicating directly with food rooms ..	6	4	4	2
Ceilings, walls, floors, windows, doors, etc., in disrepair ..	12	2	13	14
Ceilings, walls, floors, windows, doors, etc., required cleansing ..	31	10	30	19
Preparation or cooking room structurally defective	23	7	26	7
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided ..	20	19	18	14
Suitable cloakroom accommodation not provided	4	2	5	—
Cleanliness of utensils, machinery, benches, etc., not observed ..	11	4	13	—
Suitable and sufficient lighting not provided or not maintained ..	—	—	—	4
Preparation room overcrowded	2	2	2	—
Other defects	6	4	10	14
TOTAL	138	75	145*	76

* Defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

During the year it was found necessary in ten instances to institute legal proceedings against occupiers of bakehouses for breaches under the Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948 and the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 and 1890 for the following offences:—

(*a*) Failed to observe due cleanliness of rooms where food was prepared for sale:

(*b*) Sale of food which contained foreign matter.

Insanitary Bakehouses

During the year one bakehouse was found to be in such a defective structural condition as to be unfit for use or occupation for the preparation of food and on representation by the Department the premises ceased to be used for that purpose. In two bakehouses the floor area was small in relation to the number of persons employed, resulting in overcrowding. The overcrowded conditions had also the effect of lowering the standards of hygiene. On representation by the Department one of the premises was converted into a retail bread shop. The other was in process of rebuilding at the end of the year. In five bakehouses extensive structural defects were found to exist and on representation by the department for work to put the premises into compliance with existing legislation, the owners decided that the expenditure of money involved in conversion would not be justified and the presmies ceased to be used for the preparation of food.

Bread delivery vans

The inspection of bread delivery vans and bread containers for cleanliness was maintained during the year, and where unhygienic conditions were discovered the offenders were warned. In some instances it was necessary to discuss the cleanliness of bread delivery vans with managers of bakehouses and as a result a "rota system" has been set up to ensure that regular cleansing takes place. In one instance action had to be taken by the Department against the occupier of a bakehouse to prevent the delivery of pastry in a public taxi cab.

Bread Shops

Bread shops on register at 1st January, 1956	89
Inspections during the year	134

Conditions discovered during the year:—

TABLE B 29

Nature of Defect	Instances	Notices Served	Remedied	Out-standing
Want of cleanliness in food rooms	13	5	11	2
Want of cleanliness of persons handling food	4	3	4	—
Unreasonable temperature (ventilation inadequate or not being maintained)	56	52	35	21
Drain inlets within food rooms	1	1	1	—
Sanitary conveniences communicating directly with food rooms	4	3	3	1
Ceilings, walls, floors, windows, doors, etc., in disrepair	12	10	10	2
Ceilings, walls, floors, windows, doors, etc., required cleansing	20	4	15	5
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided	38	17	20	18
Suitable and sufficient cloakroom accommodation not provided	2	2	—	2
Cleanliness of utensils, benches, food containers, etc., not observed	14	8	14	—
Suitable and sufficient lighting not provided or maintained	2	2	1	1
Other defects	14	10	6	8
Total	180	117	120	60

Non-Industrial Premises

In the report for 1955 reference was made to the Gowers Report and its recommendations, and to the fact that the Imperial Parliament had, as far back as 1953, issued proposals for legislation on health, welfare and safety in non-industrial employment and it was stated that an effort was being made by the Belfast Health Department to carry out a survey of non-industrial premises in the City. This survey continued throughout 1956 and included offices, warehouses, stores, and places of entertainment, both indoor and outdoor, all of which were not covered by the Factories or Shops Acts. It should be appreciated that the survey had to be done within the limits of existing legislation which dates as far back as 1878.

The following statistical table of conditions found on inspection includes a survey of bookmakers' offices in the City. This survey was carried out in view of pending legislation, already announced by the Northern Ireland Government, to legalise and license betting offices. Prior to the commencement of the present survey there had been no organised inspection of such places: complaints of a specific character being dealt with under the Public Health Acts. The survey revealed that the large majority of bookmakers' offices in the City were very poorly equipped with regard to welfare and health provisions for the persons employed therein; some of the deficiencies included overcrowding, insufficient natural lighting and ventilation and inadequate sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, drinking water, etc. A number of the more progressive firms have made substantial improvements or signified their intention of doing so as the result of representations made by the Department. In three instances complete new buildings were erected and a further two are in course of erection.

It is not clear what effect the proposed legislation will have on the number of bookmakers' premises. Meantime the Department is only in the position to secure minimum health requirements for the workers as provided in existing legislation. A number of premises present a problem as lack of space and structural difficulties prevent any great improvement of existing conditions. The number of these which could be classified as unfit for the carrying on of business is under consideration by the Department from the point of view of existing legislation. The results of the survey make it clear that the Health Department should be consulted by the licensing authority for bookmakers' premises when the Act comes into force. In this way the suitability of the premises from the public health point of view can be ensured before the licence is granted.

Office buildings inspected	987
Office suites inspected	1,962
Inspections during the year	3,528

Conditions discovered on inspection:—

TABLE B 30

Nature of conditions	Instances	Remedied	Out-standing
Offices overcrowded	7	9	3
Offices inadequately ventilated	39	43	9
Offices inadequately lighted	1	1	—
Offices inadequately heated	1	6	—
Offices dirty	72	71	17
Stairways and passages dirty	60	88	31
Offices, etc., required re-decoration	115	157	20
Offices not free from noxious fumes	2	2	—
Offices in a damp state	45	40	15
Offices in a defective condition	158	157	41
Unsuitable provision for taking of meals	—	—	—
Unsuitable or no drinking water	38	37	5
Unsuitable or no washing facilities	71	76	1
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	71	82	25
Not separate for the sexes	76	100	35
Dirty state	285	334	150
No intervening ventilated spaces, screening, etc.	212	213	44
Defective conditions, etc.	137	160	34
Unsuitable urinals	33	30	4
Separate means of approach not provided	—	65	3
TOTALS	1,423	1,671*	437

* Defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

Summonses issued for contraventions of the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946 .. 13

Medicines, Pharmacy and Poisons Acts (Northern Ireland) 1945

Persons registered at 1st January, 1956	26
Inspections during the year	31
Licences granted during the year	24
Contraventions of the Act and Regulations discovered during the year	2

The duty of the Health Authority under the Medicines, Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Northern Ireland) 1945, and the Regulations made thereunder was to grant annual licences to persons selling those poisons included in Part 2 of the Schedule which are used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes. This has now been altered by the introduction of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Northern Ireland) 1955, and by the Poisons Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1956, which came into operation on 1st September, 1956. Under the latter Act and Regulations the grant of annual licences has been replaced by registration of a seller of Part 2 poisons on payment to the Local Authority in respect of the entry of his name in the Register, a fee of ten shillings and for the retention of his name on the Register in any year subsequent to the year in which his name is first entered therein, a fee of five shillings. The Local Authority is authorised under the Act to refuse registration or to remove from the Register the name of any person who, in their opinion is for any sufficient reason relating either to him personally or to his premises, not fit to be on the register, subject to the person having the right of appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs against the refusal or removal.

Under the 1945 Act and Regulations the provisions were mainly concerned with those shops dealing in agricultural or horticultural products such as "weed killers" containing arsenical and nicotine poisons. Under the 1955 Act and Regulations the scope of the Poisons Schedule has been extended to include other poisons such as ammonia, carbolic disinfectant, caustic soda, etc., with the result that a very considerable number of shop-keepers in the City, who were previously under no obligation are required to apply for registration under the 1955 Act. From present indications it is anticipated that a large volume of applications will be submitted to the Health Department for registration during 1957 and arrangements have been made to cope with the additional responsibilities.

During the year two holders of licences under the Act of 1945 ceased to carry on business and one person engaged in the sale of poisons included in the Regulations of 1956 failed to comply with the provisions required for registration. The matter was under consideration by the Health Committee at the end of the year.

Rag Flock Act, 1911

Premises on register where Rag Flock is used	41
Inspection of premises	47
Samples of Rag Flock submitted to Public Analyst	38
Samples certified as not being in compliance with the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912	nil

The purpose of the Rag Flock Act, 1911 and the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912, is to ensure that flock fillings manufactured from rags and used in the bedding and upholstery trades are of a prescribed standard of cleanliness. It is the duty of the Sanitary Authority to enforce the provisons of the Act and Regulations and authorised officers of the Local Authority may enter premises and take samples of any rag flock for the purposes of analysis. Reference has been made in previous Annual Reports to the shortcomings of the above Act and Regulations and the necessity for more up to date legislation on the lines adopted in England under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951.

Shops Act (Northern Ireland), 1946

Report on Administration of Section 22 in connection with the provisions for the health and welfare of persons employed in shops.

Shops on the register	6,310
Complete surveys during the year	2,065
Inspections during the year	3,980
Contraventions discovered	414
Statutory Notices served	263
Exemption certificates issued with respect to alternative Sanitary accommodation	27
Exemption certificates issued with respect to alternative washing facilities	17
Summonses issued	Nil

Conditions Found:—

TABLE B 31

Nature of conditions	Instances	Remedied	Out-standing
Suitable and sufficient ventilation not provided	16	8	8
Suitable and sufficient ventilation not maintained	40	21	19
Efficient means for securing a reasonable temperature not provided	9	8	1
Suitable temperature not maintained	3	3	1
Suitable and sufficient means of lighting not provided or maintained	8	8	—
Insufficient and unsuitable washing facilities	73	79	9
Unsuitable facilities for the taking of meals	2	2	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	20	19	6
Not provided separate for sexes	11	12	2
Ventilation inadequate	40	37	7
Lighting inadequate	5	6	2
Floors, walls, basins, seats, cisterns, etc., defective or dirty	206	224	41
Screening, doors, fasteners, etc., defective or not provided	27	32	7
Absence of an intervening ventilated space	10	14	1
Separate means of approach not provided	3	2	1
TOTAL	473	475*	105

* Defects remedied include outstanding defects from previous year.

Inspection of shops under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946

Public health nuisances discovered during the year	228
Statutory Notices served	109
Nuisances abated	263
Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1956	9

Food and Drugs

Report on the Administration of the Food and Drugs Acts in relation to sampling to check the nature, substance and quality of food sold within the City.

The duty devolving on the Department of protecting the general public against the sale of inferior foods or foods not complying with prescribed standards continued to be exercised by the Food and Drugs Inspectors procuring samples, of as wide a variety as possible, of foods on sale for human consumption. Premises within the City where foods are manufactured for sale are subject to systematic inspection to ensure adequate supervision of the hygienic preparation and chemical composition of food. There are foods on sale to the public for which no legal standards are prescribed and such foods are judged as to chemical composition by what is known as an "analyst's" standard. This standard is based on the results of analysis of many samples of a particular food and any sample which deviates from that standard is regarded as not genuine and usually an adulteration certificate is issued. A recent innovation in the City has been the development of the sale of what can best be described as "Continental foods" with unusual names. The sale of these appears to be limited to a particular section of the community. More foods than ever are coming into the category of "pre-packed" and are manufactured by firms of national repute. They invariably comply with prescribed or generally accepted standards.

The number of samples of food and drugs taken in accordance with the Acts and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis during the year was 1,403. Of this number 1,349 were certified as genuine and 54 as adulterated. Attention is drawn to the considerable increase in the number of adulterated samples as compared with 1955. If reference is made to the table "Legal proceedings in respect of adulterated foods" it will be seen that, of the 54 samples certified by the Public Analyst as being adulterated, 32 were meat (minced), sausage meat and sausages. The reason for these samples being certified was preservative in excess of the amount permitted by Regulations and the addition of preservatives to meat (minced) which is prohibited by Regulations. Two other foods accounted for a further 12 adulterations: these were butter and jam. It should be explained, however, that these were what is known as "home-made" jam and "country" or farm produced butter.

The following table shows the number of samples procured and examined in the past five years, and the percentage of samples adulterated:—

TABLE B 32

Year	Number taken			Number adulterated			Percentage adulterated		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
1952	1,048	15	1,063	22	1	23	2.06	6.66	2.16
1953	1,319	7	1,326	46	2	48	3.48	28.57	3.61
1954	1,388	13	1,401	50	2	52	3.60	15.39	3.71
1955	1,410	9	1,419	24	1	25	1.70	11.11	1.76
1956	1,400	3	1,403	53	1	54	3.79	33.33	3.85

Nature of samples of food and drugs analysed

TABLE B 33

Article	Number Examined	Article	Number Examined
Almonds, Ground	3	Food, Parrish's	1
Arrowroot	1	Fruit, Dried	24
Aspirin	1	Gin	3
Barley	5	Ginger	1
Beans, Butter	1	Ginger, Ground	2
Beef, Corned	2	Glycerine and Honey	2
Beer	5	Honey	1
Brandy	3	Ice Cream	71
Breadcrumbs, Golden	3	Jam	32
Bread and Butter	5	Jelly, Calves Foot	1
Butter	33	Jelly, Table	30
Buttermilk	15	Juice, Fruit	12
Cheese	1	Juice, Tomato	3
Cheese, Lemon	4	Lard	15
Cherries, Glace	6	Lentils	6
Chocolate, Drinking	6	Lollipops	21
Chutney	2	Macaroni	3
Chutney, Tomato	1	Macaroni and Cheese	1
Cinnamon, Ground	4	Magnesia, Carbonate of	1
Cocoa	8	Margarine	49
Coconut, Desiccated	11	Marmalade	1
Coffee	3	Meal, Golden Drop	1
Coffee, Ground	1	Meat, Luncheon	4
Compound Jelly (Table)	2	Meat, Minced	63
Compound, Pepper Flavoured	1	Meat, Sausage	80
Condiment, non-brewed	39	Milk, Evaporated	3
Confectionery	1	Milk, Malted	1
Cornflour	15	Milk, plus	1
Cream	4	Mincemeat, Sweet	5
Cream, Sterilized	2	Mint, Dried	1
Cream, Synthetic	1	Mix, Cake	8
Cream of Tartar	5	Mix, Pastry	3
Crisps, Potato	1	Mix, Pudding	1
Crystals, Barley Water	1	Mix, Soup	13
Crystals, Foam	1	Mustard	14
Crystals, Lemon	1	Nutmeg	3
Crystals, Raspberry Foam	1	Nuts, Ground	1
Curd, Banana	1	Oil, Cod Liver	1
Curd, Lemon	5	Oil, Olive	4
Dessert, Caramel Flavour	1	Paraffin, Liquid	9
Dressing, Fish	1	Paste, Fish	3
Drink, Effervescent	1	Paste, Meat	10
Drink, Orange	3	Peas	6
Essence, Coffee and Chicory	26	Peel, Cut	5
Essence, Flavouring	1	Peel, Mixed	1
Extract, Malt with Cod-liver Oil	1	Pepper	16
Farola	10	Piccalilli	1
Fat, Cooking	20	Pickles, Mixed	1
Flavour, Ginger	1	Pie, Beefsteak and Kidney	1
Flavour, Lemon	1	Pie Filling, Lemon Flavour	2
Flour	4	Powder, Baking	10
Flour, Self-raising	15	Powder, Boracic	1
Food, Breakfast	1	Powder, Curry	3
Food, Milk	1	Powder, Custard	7

TABLE B 33 (*continued*)

Article	Number Examined
Powder, Golden Raising	1
Powder, Ice Cream	1
Powder, Potato	1
Powder, Raspberry	1
Powder, Seidlitz	2
Powder, Soft Drinks	5
Powder, Synthetic Cream	1
Rarebit, Welsh	1
Rice	9
Rice, Creamed	1
Roll, Steak and Onion	1
Rum	1
Sago	1
Salad Cream	14
Salt, Epsom	1
Sauce	19
Sauce, Mint	1
Sauce, Onion	1
Sausages	124
Sausage, Liver	2
Semolina	3
Soda, Bicarbonate of	17
Soft Drinks	60
Soup	5
Spice, Mixed	9
Spread, Chocolate	1
Spread, Sandwich	4
Steak, Stewed	2
Stuffing, Sage and Onion	1
Suet, Beef	5
Sugar, Castor	1
Sugar, Icing	1
Sunchoc, Instant	1
Sweetmilk	168
Tapioca	4
Tea	22
Vegetables, Dried	3
Vermicelli	1
Vinegar, Cider	2
Vinegar, Malt	26
Whiskey	14
Wholemeal	1
Wine	5
Wine, Tonic	1
Yorkshire Relish	3
Total	1,403

Legal proceedings in respect of adulterated foods

TABLE B 34

Nature of Sample	Number Taken	Number Adulterated	Prosecutions	Convictions	Fines
Bread and butter	5	2	2	2	£7 0 0
Butter	33	5	5	3	£5 0 0
Condiment, non-brewed	39	4	3	3	£4 10 0
Ice Cream	71	2	2	2	£7 0 0
Jam	32	7	7	6	£14 0 0
Beef, minced	63	12	12	7	£26 5 0
Meat, sausage	80	11	11	11	£82 0 0
Sausages	124	9	9	9	£31 0 0
Soft drinks	60	1	1	—	—
Sweet milk	168	1	1	1	£10 0 0

In one case of adulteration of condiment, non-brewed, no legal proceedings were instituted, but the owner was cautioned.

Cases of adulteration in which legal proceedings instituted against the offender were pending at the end of the year: butter 2; jam 1; beef, minced 5; soft drinks 1.

The following are particulars of samples specially reported by the Public Analyst during the year.

Beef Sausages. Six samples of beef sausages contained respectively 8,000, 1,050, 1,000, 870, 720 and 610 parts per million of sulphur dioxide as preservative. Three samples of beef sausages, which were not declared as containing preservative, contained respectively 650, 420 and 250 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. Beef sausages may contain a maximum of 450 parts of sulphur dioxide, when declared, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1927.

Bread and Butter. In two samples purchased as bread and butter the fatty component was found to be composed entirely of margarine.

Butter. Three samples of butter contained an excessive amount of water, the respective figures being 23, 24.9 and 20.5 per cent. Butter should not contain more than 16.0 per cent of water (Sales of Butter (Ireland) Regulations, 1902). Two samples of butter proved on analysis to be mixtures of butter and margarine and were, therefore, held to be samples of margarine within the meaning of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Flour. A sample of flour, specially submitted, was found to have been tainted by contact with a substance not identified but possessing a strong and unpleasant odour.

Ice Cream. Two samples of ice cream were deficient in fat content, one containing only 3.5 per cent of fat and the other 3.2 per cent, whereas ice cream should (Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953) contain not less than 5 per cent of fat. Four samples of ice cream slightly low in fat content were reported as of "inferior" composition.

Jam. Five samples of jam and two samples of apple jelly were deficient in soluble solids, containing 64, 62, 62, 61, 60 and 58 per cent respectively whereas a minimum content of 68½ per cent of soluble solids is required in jam (Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953). One sample of raspberry jam was slightly low in soluble solids and returned as "inferior".

Kali Water. Two samples of kali water containing less than 5 grains per pint of potassium bicarbonate, and one sample low in content of bicarbonate were reported as "inferior".

Lemon Juice. One sample of lemon juice found to have deteriorated owing to fermentation, was reported as "inferior".

Meat Roll. Two samples of sausage meat roll with vegetables contained respectively 960 and 620 parts per million of sulphur dioxide as preservative. Sausage meat roll when declared may contain a maximum of 450 part of sulphur dioxide per million, (Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations (N.I.), 1927).

Minced Beef. One sample of minced beef contained 390 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. Minced beef, according to the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations (N.I.), 1927) must not contain preservatives. One sample of minced beef had the composition of sausage meat of 73 per cent meat.

Minced Steak. Ten samples of minced steak contained respectively 450, 400, 360, 300, 270, 170, 150, 150, 150 and 90 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. Minced steak must be entirely free from preservatives, (Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations (N.I.), 1927).

Non-Brewed Condiment. Two samples of non-brewed condiment contained respectively only 1.4 and 2.4 per cent of acetic acid. An agreed standard of acidity for this type of condiment is 4.0 per cent of acetic acid so that the samples were appreciably below normal. Two samples of non-brewed condiment had significant traces of lead, the lead content in one sample being 45 parts per million and in the other 16 parts. Attention was drawn to the presence of 10.5 per cent acetic acid in another sample of non-brewed condiment, 8.0 per cent being a desirable maximum.

Orange Fruit Drinks. One sample of orange fruit drink contained no more than 20 per cent of orange juice and was misdescribed as "Whole Orange Drink".

Sausage Meat. Eight samples of sausage meat contained respectively 2,200, 1,440, 1,060, 1,000, 950, 950, 670 and 580 parts per million of sulphur dioxide as preservative. One sample not declared contained 320 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. Sausage Meat may contain a maximum of 450 parts of sulphur dioxide, when declared, (Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations (N.I.), 1927).

Soda Water. One sample of soda water contained only 1.5 grains per pint of sodium bicarbonate, whereas soda water by the Food Standards (Soft Drinks) Order, 1953, should contain a minimum of 5 grains per pint of sodium bicarbonate.

Whiskey. One sample of whiskey was contaminated by a small amount of vegetable debris and ferruginous matter, another sample was below the legal minimum strength, (Intoxicating Liquor Act (N.I.) 1923) and was returned as "inferior".

Milk Control

Milk being such an important item of diet, particularly in the case of young children, it is necessary to maintain the maximum possible supervision over the purity and quality of milk sold within the City. This is achieved by systematic sampling for compliance with prescribed bacteriological and chemical standards, and inspections by the Food and Drugs staff of all premises within the City wherein milk is produced, treated, stored and sold, also of the vehicles used in the transporting of milk for sale.

When an adverse result is obtained from a sample submitted for bacteriological examination the premises concerned are inspected. If the dairy treating the milk is within the City, it is visited and the whole process is checked, including receipt and storage of returned empties, the efficiency of bottlewashing, the receipt and treatment of the milk and the conditions of cold storage. Milk subjected to heat treatment, as prescribed in S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1951 No. 189, should be up to standard, hence the importance of the follow-up inspections when an adverse result is obtained. The efficiency of bottle washing plant in dairies is of great importance as milk bottles are often subjected to a great deal of misuse before return. This was recognised during the last war when it was found necessary to introduce a regulation prohibiting the misuse of milk bottles. Although conservation of available supplies of milk bottles was the object of the regulation, it recognised the fact of misuse. Present day observations show that the problem still exists. Much good would follow from the co-operation of householders and others in preventing misuse of milk bottles.

Licensed producers of milk	6
Cows on licensed producers' premises (average)	163
Dairies where milk is pasteurised	4
Gallons of milk pasteurised per day (approx.)	44,000
Wholesale distributors of milk	27
Retail distributors of pasteurised milk	1,131
Retail distributors of Grade "A" (TT) milk	32
Inspections of dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	895
Samples of sweetmilk taken under Sale of Food & Drugs Acts	168

Particulars of Sweetmilk Samples taken for Chemical Analysis during the five years 1952-1956.

The high standard in quality of the milk sold to the public, referred to in previous Annual Reports, can again be commented upon. The results of the samples taken and submitted for chemical analysis during the year show that the standard is being well maintained. Looking back on the records for previous years and noting the steady improvement, one might almost say that deliberate adulteration is a thing of the past. It is, however, still necessary to exercise control by frequent sampling to ensure that the public are supplied with milk of the nature, substance and quality demanded.

TABLE B 35

Year	Number Taken	Number adulterated	Percentage adulterated
1952	235	1	0.42
1953	187	—	—
1954	209	1	0.47
1955	174	1	0.57
1956	168	1	0.60

Average monthly composition of milk samples submitted and examined by the Public Analyst

TABLE B 36

Month	Number	Total Solids per cent	Fat per cent	Solids Not Fat per cent
January	12	12.30	3.69	8.61
February	8	12.25	3.61	8.46
March	16	11.70	3.39	8.31
April	19	12.29	3.63	8.66
May	14	12.27	3.48	8.79
June	18	12.36	3.57	8.79
July	7	12.40	3.57	8.83
August	18	12.55	3.78	8.77
September	17	12.54	3.70	8.48
October	19	12.67	3.89	8.78
November	5	12.95	4.16	8.79
December	15	12.51	3.91	8.60

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

965 samples of Grade A (TT) and pasteurised sweetmilk were taken during the year by Food Inspectors and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. In addition, 150 samples of Grade A (TT) sweetmilk were forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Purdysburn, for biological examination as to the presence of tubercle bacilli. As already stated under the heading "Milk Control", on receipt of adverse results from the Bacteriologist, the premises and plant are inspected and at the same time the Ministry of Agriculture is informed of the adverse results.

Particulars of Bacteriological Examinations

TABLE B 37

Test	Grade of Milk	Samples Examined	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Plate Count . .	*"A" (TT)	92	88	95.65	3	3.26
	Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	—
Coliform . .	"A" (TT)	92	75	81.52	17	18.48
	Pasteurised	873	841	96.33	32	3.67
Phosphatase . .	Pasteurised	873	873	100.00	—	—
Biological . .	"A" (TT)	150	—	—	—	—

*In 1 test the plate count was invalidated by spreading organisms.

Provision of Milk in Schools

During the year 116 samples of milk delivered to schools were taken by Food Inspectors for bacteriological examination. 107 samples were in compliance and 9 samples were unsatisfactory due to the presence of coliform organisms. The prescribed standards are contained in S. R. & O. (N.I.) 1951 No. 189

Bacteriological Examination of School Milk

TABLE B 38

Test	Grade of Milk	Samples Examined	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Plate Count . .	Pasteurised	116	116	100	—	—
Coliform . .	Pasteurised	116	107	92.24	9	7.76
Phosphatase . .	Pasteurised	116	116	100	—	—

Mineral Waters

Samples of the products of all mineral water manufacturers in the City were collected during the year by Food Inspectors for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. The general practice is to take from each manufacturer two types of mineral waters and one sample of the water used in the manufacturing process. When an adverse result is obtained the premises concerned are inspected, special attention being paid to water storage, treatment, bottle-washing, bottlefilling, manufacture and blending of syrups, etc. Arrangements are made for the cleansing of tanks and filters and the flushing of pipelines with sterilising agents. Samples of the water used in manufacture and of the finished products are taken before and after this treatment. Samples taken also included mineral waters sold within the City, but manufactured outside the City boundary.

Included under the heading "Water Supplies" are results of bacteriological examination of waters used in the manufacture of mineral waters, these fall into three categories *viz.* Belfast and District Water Commissioners mains supply, private artesian wells and a mixture of both. 186 samples of mineral waters were taken during the year of which the Bacteriologist reported 182 as highly satisfactory, 2 as unsatisfactory because of the presence of coliform organisms and 2 as unsatisfactory because of the presence of B. Coli Type 1.

Frozen Confectionery

Under this heading are grouped what are commonly called lollipops or iced lollies made from fruit juices, milk, milk powder or ice cream mix. An investigation during the year into conditions of manufacture and sale of the various types and makes of lollipops covered sampling for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination and inspection of premises and methods of manufacture. While there are no prescribed standards for this type of confectionery, the standards applying to milk and ice cream were used in assessing the quality and purity of any particular make of lollipop. In view of experience elsewhere, 21 samples were taken for chemical analysis and tested for metallic contamination, but no evidence of this was found. 40 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of this number 11 were reported by the Bacteriologist as being unsatisfactory. Cautionary warning letters were sent to the persons concerned and follow up inspections of the premises were made and after remedial measures, further samples were taken. Investigations were still in progress at the end of the year.

Bacteriological examination of imported eggs, egg powder and egg albumen

Because of the association of paratyphoid fever with imported Chinese eggs sampling of the various consignments coming into the City was continued. During the year 160 samples were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The samples taken included 70 of dried eggs, 81 of frozen eggs and 9 of egg albumen. 6 samples were returned as unsatisfactory due to the presence of Salmonella Thompson and Salmonella typhimurium. The containers (and their contents) from which these samples were taken were seized and in each case a Magistrate's Order was obtained for the condemnation thereof. The extent of use of Chinese imported eggs in the baking industry in the City was investigated and all bakeries were advised by letter that any food products made with these preparations should be subjected to temperature of at least 240°F for one hour or 360°F for thirty minutes. The letter also advised on procedures for cleansing of utensils and containers which had been in contact with imported egg preparations. Operatives engaged in the manufacture of food products containing these preparations were instructed to wash their hands and arms thoroughly before handling other foodstuffs.

Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1953

Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods) Orders, made under Section 2 of the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1926.

Many orders have been made under the 1926 Act, dealing with the importation into the United Kingdom of certain foodstuffs. The object of the legislation is to protect the home grower or home produced article. Imported goods on exposure for sale are required to bear an indication of the place of origin. Food premises in the City are inspected to ensure compliance with these Orders, particularly when certain home grown foods are in season and on display in the shops. During the year 17 warnings were issued by the Department, and in 6 instances legal proceedings were instituted after warnings had failed to achieve compliance with the Orders. Details of offences and fines imposed are given in the table "Analysis of Legal Proceedings".

Margarine Factories and Wholesale Dealers

There were 79 premises on the register at the end of the year. The Food Inspectors made 88 inspections of these premises and 3 contraventions of the Regulations were discovered. Action was taken to have the contraventions remedied.

The control of food unfit for human consumption

The inspection and diposal of food found to be unfit for human consumption is an important part of the Food Inspectors' day to day duties. Tables below show the amount of food which was found on inspection to be unfit and which was surrendered or seized. Such food is found either as a result of daily inspections of shops, wholesale food stores, etc., or by traders requesting an examination of food considered unfit. In the former case the goods are seized and the Inspector makes a statutory declaration of his authority and of his intention to take the food before a Magistrate with a view to obtaining a condemnation order for destruction thereof. The circumstances of deposit, sale and condition of the food are considered by the Medical Officer of Health before a decision is taken to institute legal proceedings. Where the Food Inspectors are called to the premises to examine food and it is found unfit, it is ordinarily accepted as a voluntary surrender and disposed of at the Municipal Destructor under the supervision of the Inspector. Certificates of destruction are then issued by the Department to firms concerned. During the year ending 31st December, 1956, 5,371 certificates were issued. This shows an increase of 368 certificates over the previous year.

The third source of information regarding unsound food arises when members of the public bring to the Department food purchased by them and believed to be unsound. Follow-up action in these cases includes an early visit to the premises from which the food was sold and search for food in similar condition and if the circumstances warrant it a visit to the home of the complainant. The condition of the food, the time lag between purchase and complaint to the Department, where the food was kept, also whether the food had been subjected to any treatment are all factors which are considered in determining the course of action to be taken.

(Unsound foodstuffs seized by Port Sanitary Officers will be found under the heading Port Sanitary).

Unsound foodstuffs surrendered by traders after inspection and destroyed or disposed of otherwise than for the food of man:—

TABLE B 39 (a)

Article	Tins, Jars, Packets, Bottles	Article	Tins, Jars, Packets, Bottles
Asparagus	197	Marmalade	111
Baby Foods	111	Mayonnaise	84
Barmbracks	6	Meat, Brawn, Veal and Pork	6,644
Beans	3,454	Milk	1,538
Beetroot	61	Mint	2
Beverages	48	Miscellaneous	69
Browning	1	Orange Squash	19
Cakes	52	Paste	303
Calves Foot Jelly	12	Pastry	12
Cheese	1,392	Peas	4,697
Cheese Spread	1,930	Pepper	1
Coffee	21	Pickles	195
Corn	48	Puddings and Dumplings	291
Cream	226	Rice	74
Farls	342	Salad Cream	19,943
Fish	740	Sandwich Spread	302
Flour, Cake and Scone Mix	242	Sauce	13
Fruit	10,695	Sausages	11
Fruit Jellies	11	Soup and Broth	2,662
Fruit Juice	1,239	Spaghetti	104
Fruit Sauce	2	Spinach	296
Gelatine Crystals	48	Stews	2
Ham	7	Swiss Rolls	12
Honey	1	Syrup	6
Hors D'Oeuvres	1	Tablets, Stomach	85,256
Horseradish Cream	20	Tomatoes	855
Ice Cream (Blocks)	30	Tomato Chutney	74
Iced Lollipops	24	Tomato Juice	107
Jam	162	Vedas	3
Jellies	14	Vegetables	885
Macaroni	75	Walnuts, Pickled	4
Macedoines	16		

TABLE B 39 (b)

Article	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Article	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Barley	—	—	1	12	Liquid Eggs	—	9	—	8
Beans	—	—	—	6	Margarine	—	4	—	13
Biscuits	—	—	—	2	Meat (Tinned)	1	16	1	27
Cake, Icing	—	—	8	14	Meat, Brawn, Veal and Pork	1	14	—	1
Cheese	—	7	2	25	Milk Powder	—	1	—	—
Coconut	—	—	2	—	Pudding Mixture ..	—	—	2	—
Confectionery	—	3	2	2	Rice	—	1	2	9
Cooking Fat	—	—	—	17	Sausage Rusk	—	1	—	—
Dried Fruit	2	10	—	10	Tapioca	—	—	—	17
Dripping	—	4	3	—	Tea	—	1	—	1
Fish	—	7	2	5	Tomato Puree	—	—	2	2
Fruit (Large Tins—lbs.)	9	2	2	21	Vegetables	1	17	—	—
Fruit Pulp	—	3	—	4	Yeast	—	—	—	3
Ham	—	6	3	25					
Jam	—	—	1	7					

Buttermilk 6 gallons, Eggs 6 dozen.

Unsound foodstuffs seized and destroyed in pursuance of Magistrates' Orders

TABLE B 40 (a)

Article	Number	Type of Container	Article	Number	Type of Container
Beans	87	Tins	Liver Salts	3	Tins
Beetroot	7	Jars	Loaves	14	Loose
Biscuits	14	Loose	Marmalade	1	Tin
Biscuits	7	Tins	Meat	31	Tins
Browning	12	Pkts.	Meat Paste	2	Jars
Cake	1	Loose	Meat Rolls	10	Loose
Cereal Food	7	Pkts.	Milk	2	Tins
Cheese Spread	12	Boxes	Mincemeat	6	Jars
Chocolate	2	Bars	Oats	13	Pkts.
Chocolate Puddings ..	24	Loose	Pancakes	36	Loose
Chocolate Wafer	1	Loose	Peas	50	Tins
Cooking Fat	6	Pkts.	Pickles	6	Jars
Corn Flakes	18	Pkts.	Porridge Oats	1	Pkt.
Corned Beef	5	Tins	Rice	11	Tins
Cream Cones	30	Loose	Sauce	105	Bottles
Cream Crackers	2	Pkts.	Soup	54	Tins
Custard Powder	12	Pkts.	Soup Mixture	12	Pkts.
Essence of Coffee and Chicory	6	Bottles	Spaghetti	1	Tin
Fish	20	Tins	Sponge Mixture	39	Pkts.
Fruit	88	Tins	Stew	3	Tins
Fruit, Dried	3	Pkts.	Sweetmilk	1	Bottle
Glucose Drink	8	Bottles	Swiss Rolls	2	Loose
Headache Powders ..	36	Pkts.	Syrup	1	Tin
Jam	46	Jars	Tea	24	Pkts.
Kali Water	1	Bottle	Tomato Ketchup	17	Jars
Lard	1	Pkt.	Vinegar	3	Bottles

TABLE B 40 (b)

Articles	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Article	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Almonds, ground . .	—	—	—	14	Ham	—	—	1	3
Apples	—	—	1	10	Lard	—	—	2	7
Bacon	—	—	1	5½	Mixed Dried Fruit . .	—	—	-	14
Baking Soda	—	—	1	2	Mixed fruit jams . .	—	—	2	—
Barley	—	—	2	7	Oatmeal	—	—	—	14
Beef	—	1	2	6	Pears	—	—	1	—
Brawn	—	—	—	6½	Pineapple	—	—	1	—
Butter	—	—	—	½	Pork	—	—	1	16
Cake	—	—	—	12½	Pork sausages . .	—	—	1	1
Carrots	—	2	—	—	Potatoes	—	—	2	—
Cheese	—	—	1	14	Raisins	—	—	2	2
Confectionery	—	4	3	12¼	Sausage roll	—	—	—	15
Coriander, seed . .	—	—	—	5	Skimmed milk powder	—	1	—	—
Digestive Biscuits . .	—	—	—	3	Sugar	—	—	1	12
Dried Egg	—	1	3	22	Tomatoes	—	—	—	25
Fat, cooking	—	11	2	—	Walnuts	—	—	—	2
Flour	—	4	—	23					

134 fowl, lights and offal of one bovine carcase, 14 mixed pastries, 24 plain loaves, 2 sliced pan loaves, 8 dozen eggs, 5 cream sandwiches.

Food containing Extraneous Matter

The number of complaints received from the public of the finding of extraneous matter in food has shown an increase in the past twelve months. The cases dealt with by the Department were as follows:—

*Live insects in a chocolate coated wafer.
Live insects in soup mixture.
*Mouse droppings in a loaf (2 instances).
Mould growth in biscuits.
*A piece of metal in a soda farl.
Dead cockroach in a tin of beans.
*Steel wire in a soda farl.
Mould growths in potato farls.
Mould growths in meat pies (3 instances).
*Live insects in coriander seeds.
*Live insects in oatmeal.
Glass fragments in a soda farl.
Live acari in soup mixture.
*Spiders on bananas.
Dead insect in a loaf.
*Wire nail in a currant square.
Excessive colouring matter in a Battenberg cake.
*Insect larva in a bar of cream chocolate.
*Wire nail in a coconut sponge cake.
Abscess in a pork fillet.
*Dirt in sweetmilk.
Hessian sacking in a cream chocolate pastry.
A piece of iron in a soda farl.
*Mouse droppings in oats.
Dead wasp in a loaf.
*Live maggots in a bar of chocolate.
Mould growths in a pan loaf.
*Mould growths in meat rolls (4 instances).
*A dead insect in cream pastry.
Foreign matter in Kali water.

* Denotes legal proceedings.

In cases where the extraneous matter was of a minor nature or for other reasons, a visit by the Food Inspector to the premises where the food was sold and a warning letter was considered suitable action.

Registration of Premises used for manufacture for sale, and sale of Ice Cream

Sale of Ice Cream Acts (N.I.) 1937 and 1950

An increase in the number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream can be noted. The majority of the applicants were granted conditional registration and signed an undertaking to sell ice cream only in its original unopened wrapper or container. When applications for registration are received the premises are inspected and the applicants advised as to suitability for registration. If the work required to put the premises into compliance is of a minor nature and can be put in hand at once, the Inspector arranges for the work to be done before putting forward the application with his recommendation for registration. If the work is extensive, or conditions prevail which would render the premises unsuitable for registration the matter is reported to the Health Committee with a recommendation for refusal of registration. Instances also occur of previously registered premises which have not been maintained to the required standards. Where verbal and written warnings have not affected improvements the Health Committee is recommended to consider the cancellation of registration.

TABLE B 41

Partculars	Manufacture and Sale	Sale Only	Total
Premises registered at 1st January, 1956	53	763	816
Deletions during the year	6	97	103
Registered during the year	3	148	151
On register at 31st December, 1956	50	814	864

Inspections of registered premises	2,696
Summonses for selling ice cream in unregistered premises	3
Samples submitted for bacteriological examination	1,101
Samples submitted for chemical analysis	71
Cautionary letters sent	81
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	5

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1953

This Order provides that ice cream shall contain not less than 5 per cent of fat, 7½ per cent of milk solids other than fat, and 10 per cent of sugar (of which not less than 7½ per cent must be sucrose).

The table below gives the analytical results of 71 samples.

TABLE B 42

In Compliance		Not in Compliance			
		Fat		Total Solids	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
69	97.18	2	2.82	—	—

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations (N.I.) 1954

Methylene Blue Test (1,101 samples)

TABEL B 43

Grade	Number	Percentage
1	954	86.65
2	57	5.18
3	55	4.99
4	35	3.18

Conditions discovered on inspection of ice cream premises:—

TABLE B 44

Nature of condition	Instances	Remedied	In Progress	Out-standing
Walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair	6	6	—	1
Walls, ceilings, doors, windows, etc., required cleansing or re-decoration	3	3	—	1
Lighting and ventilation not provided or insufficient	4	3	1	4
Sink: defective, worn, or not provided	6	4	2	6
Sink: hot and cold water not provided or insufficient	3	3	—	1
Sink: waste-pipe untrapped or connected direct to drain ..	5	5	—	—
Washing facilities not provided or insufficient	3	2	1	—
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food	7	7	—	3
Total	37	33*	4	16

* Defects remedied include outstanding defects from previous year.

Food Hygiene

Considerable progress can again be reported on work done to bring food premises into compliance with existing legislation. The object of the relevant legislation is to effect improvements in design and layout, to eliminate potential sources of contamination and to facilitate the ready cleansing of premises. These basic principles apply to all types of food premises (with modifications to suit the particular branch of the food trade carried on therein). Food trading ranges in the City from the small confectioner's shop to the large food manufacturer and covers the preparation, storage and sale of every article of food used for human consumption. It is obvious that structural standards, etc., must vary according to the use made of the premises.

In the catering trade, conditions which are found co-existing with poor standards of hygiene are the ratio of the area used for the preparation and storage of food in relation to the total floor area; the absence of vegetable preparation rooms and stores; the lack of proper cloakroom facilities for the staff; bad siting of cooking equipment and apparatus; insufficient ventilation and inadequate means of removal of gases and fumes. The generally accepted modern standards for restaurant and cafe kitchens are (1) the floor area for the preparation, cooking and storage of food should be at least one third of the total floor area; (2) a separate room for the storage and preparation of vegetables including potatoes; (3) proper cloakroom facilities for the staff; (4) cooking equipment and apparatus should be sited on the "island" principle, clear of all walls to facilitate ready cleansing; (5) suitable and sufficient ventilation should be provided and maintained and (6) a proper exhaust system for disposal of fumes and gases should be installed. In recent years plans for new restaurants and cafes or for alterations to existing premises have not been approved unless these standards have been complied with.

Another example of standards for particular trades arises where unprotected or unwrapped foods are sold and the maximum protection against contamination by dirt, dust, insects or animals is necessary. The open fronts of some fishmongers' shops are now required to be enclosed as in butchers' shops. The increase in the use of refrigerator display cabinets is a noteworthy improvement. A comparatively recent innovation is the number of shops in the City changing over to the "self-service" principle. The object of this type of shop is to speed service and to display to the customer the widest possible variety of goods. This type of shop has been kept under observation and undoubtedly there are some public health risks attached to this type of trading. Unprotected or unwrapped foods can be subjected to excessive handling and the public are brought in very close proximity to the food displayed for sale. Experiments are proceeding on the wrapping or pre-packing of most displayed foods including fruit, vegetables and provisions but there are of course some difficulties to be overcome in this respect.

Inspection of Food Premises

Inspections by trade or business (excluding bakehouses and bread shops)

TABLE B 45

Trade or business	Inspections	Trade or business	Inspections
Bacon Curers	40	Ice Cream	2,696
Butchers	1,606	Industrial Canteens	13
Bakeries	235	Markets	452
Bottling Stores	70	Meat Factories	22
Chemists	26	Milk Retailers	890
Cold Stores	10	Mineral Water Factories	141
Confectioners	4,226	Pastry	85
Fish	409	Poulterers	212
Fish and Chip	699	Provisions	1,385
Food Manufacturers	182	Public Houses	1,023
Fruiterers	1,782	Restaurants	751
Grocers	4,426	Wholesalers	539
Hawkers Carts	237	Wholesale dealers in Margarine	88
		Total	22,245

Occupiers of premises carrying on the business of Butcher, Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream, and the preparation and sale of Fried Fish and Fried Potatoes are required to register with the Local Authority. Statistics concerning these trades are set out in other parts of this report under the relevant headings.

Butchers' Premises

Premises registered at 1st January, 1956	366
Deleted during year	42
Registered during year	41
Registered at 31st December, 1956	365
Inspections of registered premises	1,606

Conditions discovered on inspection of butchers' premises

Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (N.I.) 1948

TABLE B 46

Nature of Condition	Instances	Remedied	In Progress	Out-standing
No proper preparation room	2	1	0	1
Walls, ceilings, floors, doors, etc., in disrepair	13	19	1	45
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors, etc., required cleansing or re-decoration	1	4	3	—
Lighting and ventilation not provided or insufficient	5	4	—	20
Sink: wastepipe untrapped or connected direct to drain	1	7	—	—
Sink: hot and cold water not provided or insufficient	4	5	1	5
Fixtures and fittings in a state of disrepair	6	9	1	20
Drain inlets within the food room	—	1	—	1
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food	1	4	—	1
Cold storage facilities not provided	4	8	1	6
Cold storage improperly sited	1	—	—	3
Equipment worn or defective: required repair or renewal	1	5	—	12
Cutlery and other accessories defective or worn	—	—	—	16
Provision of proper bins for storage of bone and refuse	1	4	—	5
Yards, surface defective or dirty	1	—	—	2
Other defects	4	3	—	8
Suitable and sufficient personal washing facilities not provided	9	11	3	35
Supply of soap and clean towels not sufficient or not provided	10	7	3	34
Sanitary accommodation not in compliance or not provided	10	5	—	33
Total	74	97*	13	247

* Defects remedied include outstanding defects from previous year.

Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations (N.I.), 1948

Conditions discovered in food premises (excluding butchers, ice cream, fish and chip shops, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, canteens, and licensed premises).

TABLE B 47

Nature of Condition	Instances	Remedied	In Progress	Out-standing
No proper preparation room	1	1	—	—
Ceilings, walls, doors, windows, floors, etc., in disrepair	91	88	8	49
Ceilings, walls, doors, windows, required cleansing and re-decoration	40	37	7	3
Lighting and ventilation not provided or insufficient	108	111	12	99
Sink: hot and cold water not provided or insufficient	16	17	—	53
Drain inlets within the food room	39	25	3	36
Sink: wastepipe untrapped or connected direct to drain	17	26	5	3
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food	37	42	5	4
Equipment worn or defective: required repair or renewal	13	10	—	20
Cleanliness of utensils, machinery, tables, etc., not observed	—	—	—	1
Unsuitable cloakroom accommodation	2	—	—	2
Bottlewashing facilities not provided or insufficient	1	3	—	—
Cold storage facilities not provided	1	1	—	3
Fixtures and fittings in a state of disrepair	11	16	1	3
Yards, paving, walls, etc., defective	4	4	—	—
Yards, paving, walls, etc., dirty	4	2	—	2
Proper bins not provided for storage of bones and refuse	10	5	1	4
Refuse bin accommodation unsatisfactory	3	3	—	—
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided	67	78	4	3
Supply of soap and clean towels insufficient or not provided	28	38	—	7
Sanitary conveniences within or communicating direct with food room	11	8	—	17
Other defects	16	9	—	17
Sanitary Accommodation				
Sanitary accommodation not provided or insufficient	3	4	—	8
Light and ventilation not provided or insufficient	6	10	2	3
Separate means of approach not provided	—	—	—	2
Floors, basins, walls, seats, etc., dirty or defective	21	21	7	4
Flush to water closet defective or inadequate	1	3	—	1
Screens, doors, fasteners, etc., defective or not provided	7	3	—	5
Urinals, absence of or insufficent flush	1	—	—	1
Total	559	565*	55	350

*Defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

Conditions discovered in restaurants, cafes, snack-bars and industrial canteens.

TABLE B 48

Nature of conditions	Instances	Remedied	In Progress	Out-standing
No proper preparation room	1	—	2	—
No provision to prevent solid matter entering drain	1	1	—	1
Dining rooms: walls, ceilings, windows, etc., required cleansing	3	1	2	3
Dining rooms: walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair	4	2	2	5
Dining rooms: ventilation not provided and maintained	4	3	2	5
Kitchens: walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair	3	1	4	—
Kitchens: walls, ceilings, floors, windows, etc., required cleansing	1	3	—	—
Kitchen: ventilation not provided or maintained	2	2	2	2
Foodstores: walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair	5	2	6	2
Foodstores: walls, ceilings, floors, windows etc., required cleansing	3	—	—	3
Foodstores: ventilation not provided and maintained	1	—	1	—
Preparation rooms: walls ceilings, windows etc., required cleansing	2	2	1	—
Preparation rooms: walls, ceilings, floors etc., in disrepair	4	2	2	—
Preparation rooms: lighting and ventilation not provided	3	1	1	1
Fixtures and fittings in a state of disrepair	4	2	4	2
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided	7	5	4	4
Supply of soap and towels not sufficient or not provided	4	4	3	—
Supply of hot and cold water not sufficient or not provided	2	—	3	—
Equipment defective, worn, required repair or renewal	1	1	3	4
Swill-bin accommodation unsatisfactory or bins not provided	1	1	1	—
Cold storage facilities not provided or insufficient	2	—	1	2

TABLE B 48 (*continued*)

Nature of Condition	Instances	Remedied	In Progress	Out-standing
Cooking ranges not provided with means for removal of fumes or accessible for cleansing . .	4	4	3	1
Sink: wastepipe untrapped or connected directly to the drain . .	1	—	2	—
Other matters causing risk of contamination of food . .	5	1	4	—
Sanitary conveniences, dustbins etc., within or communicating direct	1	—	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation				
Lighting or ventilation inadequate . .	2	—	3	—
Screens, doors, fasteners defective or not provided . .	1	1	1	—
Floors, basins, seats, walls, etc., dirty or defective . .	1	2	—	—
Not provided or insufficient for males . .	1	—	1	—
Not provided or insufficient for females . .	1	—	—	1
Total . .	75	41*	59	37

*Defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

Conditions discovered in licensed premises and bottling stores.

TABLE B 49

Nature of Conditions	Instances	Remedied	In Progress	Out-standing
Sanitary conveniences, dustbins, etc., within or communicating direct . .	14	14	—	—
Drain inlets within or communicating direct . .	18	12	1	9
Bars and Parlours: walls, ceilings, floors, windows, etc., required cleansing . .	1	1	—	2
Bars and Parlours: walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair . .	7	7	—	—
Bars and Parlours: ventilation not provided and maintained . .	5	15	6	11
Beer Cellars & Bottling Stores: walls, ceilings, floors, etc., in disrepair . .	14	8	—	14
Beer Cellars & Bottling Stores: walls, ceilings, floors, windows, etc., required cleansing . .	9	20	5	3
Beer Cellars & Bottling Stores: ventilation not provided and maintained . .	6	12	2	3
Preparation rooms: ceilings, walls, doors, floors, etc., in disrepair . .	—	1	—	—
No proper room for preparation of snacks . .	—	1	—	5
Sink: wastepipes untrapped or communicating directly with drain	8	22	4	16
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities not provided . .	12	31	8	5
Supply of soap and towels insufficient or not provided . .	10	26	6	34
Glasses: unsatisfactory method of cleansing . .	6	17	4	5
Failure to prevent risk of contamination of food . .	1	1	—	14
Beer pipes, trays, drainers, or sinks: defective, worn, or cleanliness not maintained . .	4	4	—	17
Cold store improperly sited . .	—	—	—	1
Fixtures and fittings in a state of disrepair . .	1	1	—	3
Cooking ranges inaccessible etc. . .	—	—	—	1
Bottle washing facilities not provided . .	2	5	—	8
Proper bins not provided for storage of bones, refuse etc. . .	2	—	—	2
Other defects . .	3	2	—	6
Sanitary Accommodation				
Not provided or insuffıcent for females . .	1	3	—	—
Separate means of approach not provided . .	—	1	—	3
Screens, doors, fasteners, etc., defective or not provided . .	9	9	3	6
Lighting and ventilation not provided or inadequate . .	3	9	1	—
Floors, basins, seats, walls, etc., dirty or defective . .	4	3	—	1
Yards, paving etc., dirty or defective . .	—	1	—	4
Urinals: defective or insanitary . .	1	7	1	10
Urinals: absence of or insufficient flush thereto . .	6	7	—	—
Totals . .	147	240*	41	193

*Defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

Registration and Inspection of Premises used for the business of a Vendor of Fried Fish and Fried Potatoes

(Belfast Corporation (General Powers) Act (Northern Ireland), 1948, Section 25)

Registered at 1st January, 1956	195
Registered during the year	23
Registrations refused during the year	6
Summonses issued during the year for unregistered premises	1
Deleted during the year	22
Registered at 31st December, 1956	196
Inspections of registered premises	699

Conditions discovered on inspection:—

TABLE B 50

Nature of condition	Instances	Remedied	In Progress	Outstanding
No preparation room and/or no potato store	22	22	—	1
Ceilings, walls, floors, doors, etc., in disrepair	8	7	—	1
Ceilings, walls, doors, windows, etc., required cleansing and redecoration	6	6	1	—
Sink: hot and cold water not provided or insufficient	4	4	1	1
Sink: waste pipe untrapped or connected directly to drain	1	—	—	1
Sanitary accommodation: floors, walls, basins, etc., dirty or defective	2	2	—	—
Suitable and sufficient personal washing facilities not provided	1	—	—	1
Supply of soap and clean towels not sufficient or not provided	1	—	—	1
No provision to prevent solid matter entering drain	2	2	—	—
Other defects	3	1	—	2
Yards: paving, walls, etc., defective	3	1	2	1
Storage of food: unsatisfactory accommodation	2	2	—	—
Handling of food: unsatisfactory methods used	2	2	—	—
Equipment unsatisfactory, required repair or renewal	1	—	—	1
Cleanliness of persons employed not observed	1	1	—	—
Total	59	50*	4	10

*Defects remedied include outstanding defects from the previous year.

Summary of Legislation under which action was taken to bring food premises into compliance

Notices served under the various Acts and Regulations where breaches were discovered by Food and Drugs Inspectors during the year:—

TABLE B 51

Type of Business	Public Health (Prevention of Contamination of Food) Regulations, (N.I.) 1948	Shops Act (N.I.) 1946	Public Health (Ireland) Acts 1878-1946	Total
Cafes	10	5	2	17
Licensed Premises	15	12	9	36
Butchers	14	12	3	29
Fish and Chips	6	1	3	10
Bacon Curing, Bottling stores and Chemists	7	—	2	9
Confectionery	17	13	4	34
Fish	—	1	2	3
Food Manufacturers	6	1	2	9
Fruit	2	3	6	11
Grocers	81	27	25	133
Poultry	1	1	2	4
Pastry	1	1	—	2
Hawkers	1	—	—	1
Mineral Water Factories	2	—	—	2
Wholesale Stores	6	3	4	13
Total	169	80	64	313

PESTS CONTROL

Rodent Control

There has been no essential change in the nature of the legislation governing infestation of land by rodents. Occupiers are still responsible for taking such steps as may be necessary and reasonably practicable for the destruction of rats and mice in or on their land: and for preventing such land from becoming infested with rats or mice. The chief weakness in the present legislation is that owners of land (which term includes any buildings or erection on land, and any cellar, sewer, drain or culvert in or under land), have no responsibility in connection with rodent infestation. This circumstance gives rise to difficulties because there are factors governing infestations which are in practice beyond the scope of occupiers. In dealing with any infestation, it has always been the policy of the Rodent Control Section first to locate the possible source although this is sometimes difficult due to lack of power in the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 against owners of property. There is no difficulty, however, in dealing with suspected sources in public highways, etc., as the City Surveyor carries out the necessary examination on request, and remedies any defect for which his Department is responsible. Defects discovered in private drains are dealt with under the Public Health Acts and repaired by the owners. The importance of this class of work cannot be over-estimated as, once a source of infestation is discovered and the necessary remedial action taken, the destruction of rats becomes an easier matter for the occupier and a clearance is soon effected.

Infestation in premises may be due to one or more of a number of causes. The source may be a defect in the structure or in a drain or sewer which must be remedied before a clearance of rats can be expected. Otherwise, any destruction measures carried out can only be of a temporary nature, as rodents will gain access to the premises through the unremedied defects—except, of course, in the case of rodents being brought into premises in packages, etc. The sewers in the City may form a "reservoir" infestation affecting many premises in the region where a breakdown in the system occurs. No less important are the defects located in private drains and connections to the sewers. If the sewers are free from rats, defects in private drains would not cause infestation of the premises connected to them.

Food supplies, the contamination of which could have serious consequences on the health of the community, are an important factor in supporting the rodent population of infested premises in an area. Not only is it necessary to rat proof buildings to prevent infestation but also to remove all accumulations of litter, debris, waste food and garbage, which are evidence of commodity waste and the means of providing harbourage for rodents.

Destruction measures are carried out by the Pest Control Section at the Corporation Tips, School meals kitchens, and the Gas Works. Periodical inspections are made and where re-infestation has occurred further treatments are carried out. Costs are charged to the respective Departments.

Occupiers continue to report infestations of rats and mice to the Department. Each complaint is investigated in order to ascertain the cause or locate the source of the infestation. This entails surveying properties on the block control principle, which means an inspection of the area in which the particular infestation has occurred. Advice is given to the occupiers and destruction measures are carried out by the Department's service on the receipt of a signed undertaking to pay the costs incurred.

Statistical Details:

Surveys of land and premises		13,943
Lands, premises, etc., found infested		636
Rat infestation:		
1. Food premises	40	
2. Non-food premises	196	
Mouse infestation:		
1. Food premises	166	
2. Non-food premises	234	
Premises treated by Pests Officers		329
Poison campaigns carried out by Pests Officers on request of the occupier who undertook to pay costs		329
Undertook to pay costs:		
1. For rats	176	
2. For mice	153	

School buildings and meals kitchens treated at the request of the Director of Education		9
Poison campaigns carried out in school buildings and meals kitchens (For rats—6; For mice—4)		10
Premises cleared of rats or mice by Pests Officers		243
Premises where the clearing process was not completed at the end of the year		86
Premises test baited		3,803
Premises wherein the occupier undertook to eliminate rats and mice on statutory or verbal notice under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919		297
1. Action by rat destruction firms		30
(a) For rats	11	
(b) For mice	19	
2. Action by occupiers		267
(a) For rats	43	
(b) For mice	224	
Premises having no evidence of rats and mice at time of surveying but with rat and mouse destruction firms on contract		57
Premises where rat-proofing and other work was done to prevent re-infestation		39
Notices served under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919		229
Summonses issued under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919		1
Premises where the drains were tested		554
Premises where drains were defective on test		328
Drains repaired		285
Drains re-laid		108
Number of Rat Destruction Campaigns carried out at Corporation Tipping Grounds		26

Sewer Treatment

A large part of the Corporation's sewerage system is, through the co-operation of the City Surveyor, subjected to systematic treatment, which has brough the rat population in the sewers under control.

The method which is employed is similar to that of previous years as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This consists of poison baiting with either zinc phosphide or arsenious oxide, at all manholes in areas that have not been shown by test baiting to be free of rats. The poison bait is preceded by two placings of plain bait on alternate days.

The total area of the City which is subjected to periodical treatment against rats in sewers is bounded by:—

NORTH—Alliance Avenue, Cliftonville Road, Hughenden Avenue, Salisbury Avenue and Skegoneill Avenue.

SOUTH—Donegall Road, Olympia Drive, Capstone Street, Windsor Park, Botanic Gardens, Ormeau Park and River Lagan.

EAST—Station Street, Holywood Road, Earlswood Road, Sandown Road, North Road, Loop River and Ardenlee Avenue.

WEST—Woodvale Road, Woodvale Avenue, Forfar Street, Oakman Street and Falls Road.

This area is divided into 57 sewer areas involving the treatment of 4,904 manholes.

Number of rat destruction campaigns carried out in the sewerage system	219
Number of manholes treated in the sewer area	4,904
Number of pre baits laid	7,004
Number of pre baits taken by rats	9,811
Number of poison baits laid in manholes	4,976
Number of poison baits taken by rats	4,536

Mosquito Control

The routine seasonal work of mosquito control began on 9th April and continued until 8th October, 1956. Preliminary surveys of the potential breeding areas were carried out at the beginning of April and insecticidal fog was applied periodically by the Todd Insecticidal Fog Applicator to those areas where its use was practicable.

The areas subjected to this treatment were:—Bog Meadows, Holywood Road, Tillysburn, Musgrave Park, Newforge, Orangefield and slob-land in Duncrue Street. Other areas where fogging was impracticable were treated by hand spraying at Annadale Embankment, Lennoxvale, Greencastle and adjoining the U.T.A. Railway (Shore Road), Lester's dam and adjoining south of Deramore Park, and Stranmillis Training College.

Inspections of the ponds and ditches in the R.B.A.I. grounds, Cranmore Park, revealed no evidence of mosquito breeding. Garden plots were inspected and water containers in which mosquito larvae were found were treated with insecticide. The plots treated were at Adelaide, Annadale Embankment, Beersbridge Road, Channing Street, Monarch Street, North Road, Holywood Road, Malone Road and Westland Road. Garden plots no longer exist at St. James Road, Bladon Drive and Stranmillis as the land at these places has been utilised for building purposes.

During September, after the excessive rainfall of July and August, complaints came from five districts—Antrim Road, Belmont, Dundonald, Neill's Hill and Newforge. The investigation of the complaints failed to reveal any significant breeding at the treated areas. At Newforge and Neill's Hill a few adult mosquitoes of the Theobaldia Annulata species were found. This mosquito appears to select no particular type of natural breeding place. Larvae have been found in stagnant pools, ponds, ditches, etc. It is thought that water contaminated by nitrogenous matter provides additional attraction since tanks containing manure—water employed for gardening purposes—are often found infested. Taking into consideration the fact that complaints came from districts which are in close proximity to the City boundary, there is the probability that the mosquitoes causing annoyance to dwellers in these areas came from breeding places outside the City. There is also the possibility that some may have come from private gardens and from other small, unknown and therefore, uncontrolled places.

During the seasonal period, the following inspections were made, treatments carried out and materials used:—

Surveys of mosquito areas	145	
Areas treated with larvicide	136	
Mileage run by vehicle	527	
Petrol used by vehicle and Tifa machine	99	gallons
Waste transformer oil	1,160	,,
Larvicide used	44	,,
Paraffin oil used	36	,,

Other Insect Pests

Modern insecticides have provided a ready and easily applied remedy for pest infestation of premises, and occupiers are advised and instructed in their use. The Pest Control Section assists in the more difficult cases either by spraying or fumigation.

During the year, 1,709 inspections (including re-inspections) were made which indicated 446 infestations. 427 treatments were carried out.

The effort to control the fly population continued this year by treating with an insecticidal solution the manure pit area of stabling and cattle yards and piggeries. Three and four applications were made during the season, 578 treatments being given. Circular letters on fly control were sent to all kinds of food establishments and visits were paid to, and 212 demonstrations given of the effectiveness of space sprays in, food shops.

Rag Merchants premises received, as usual, the monthly application of insecticidal powder and solution especially for fleas, in accordance with the existing arrangement. 228 treatments were given and the cost charged to the respective occupiers. Corporation houses were, on request, disinfested of fleas and this usually occurred when there was a change of tenant. Several owners, when possession of premises had been obtained, had their premises treated for fleas. A charge was made for this service.

It was necessary to treat 32 houses for bugs and 19 for cockroaches. Some of these were notified by Health and Welfare Visitors.

Inspections of premises on complaint from Health and Welfare Visitors, Sanitary Officers, occupiers, etc.,	1,906
Number of premises found to be infested with:—	479
(a) Bugs 54	
(b) Cockroaches .. 54	
(c) Fleas 255	
(d) Flies 72	
(e) Other Insects 11	
Premises treated with insecticide	427
Treatments carried out at stabling and cattle yards and piggeries	578
Treatments carried out at rag stores	228
Aerosol spray demonstrations at food shops	212

The Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act, 1938:

The Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations (N.I.) 1952

Notifications of intention to fumigate buildings with hydrogen cyanide to destroy mill pests	3

The Todd Fog Applicator

In addition to mosquito control and the application of insecticides, the Tifa Machine was used in 68 instances for the testing of drains and sewers which could not be tested by the hand operated smoke machines, or in cases where the smoke test revealed no defects due to the impossibility of obtaining the necessary pressure of smoke in the drain to make a satisfactory test.

Disinfection

The Disinfecting Station, situated at the Laganbank Road, is a one storey building consisting of two sections, one for infected and the other for disinfected articles with separate male and female departments. Two high pressure steam disinfectors are supplied with steam provided by an electrode boiler. After the removal to hospital of patients suffering from certain infectious diseases or after the recovery of "nursed at home" patients, a disinfecting service is provided for infected premises and bedding. Disinfection of bedding is carried out at the Station for the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority and the Down County Health Authority. Traders deliver to the Station for disinfection second-hand clothing for export for which a certificate of disinfection is required. A fee is charged for disinfection and certificate.

Articles disinfected at the Disinfecting Station:—	
By Steam	6,516
By Formalin	1,601
In addition:—	
Articles destroyed on request	121
Library books withdrawn from circulation	233
Library books disinfected	16
Persons bathed and disinfected at the station	102
Premises disinfected	644

Cleansing Section

A cleansing section is also provided at the Disinfecting Station for the cleansing of verminous persons and the treatment of scabies in adults and children.

During the year the following were dealt with by the cleansing section:—

Verminous persons deloused	92
Articles of clothing and bedding disinfected	645
Adults and Children treated for scabies	
First treatment	105
Subsequent treatments	125

Flooding, etc.

As a result of flooding following the heavy rainfall during the month of August, disinfectant was issued to occupiers of dwellings in Castleview Road, Connswater Street, Welland Street and Stockman's Lane. The gardens of 18/44 Castleview Road and adjoining the Blackstaff River in Stockman's Lane were sprayed with disinfectant by the Tifa Machine. The ground at the rear of Stockman's Lane was treated with a disinfectant fog by the Tifa Machine on 7th and 19th September, 1956, because of an offensive smell coming from the flooded land.

Disinfectant was distributed to the occupiers of Castleview Road after the Knock River overflowed its banks on the 27/28th December.

Gallons of Disinfectant fluid issued	55

The electrical strike in March was the cause of a failure in the sewerage pumping station at Sydenham. The contaminated area was disinfected with 20 gallons of disinfectant fluid.

Analysis of legal proceedings, 1956

TABLE B 52

Proceedings	Offences	Summonses	Orders	Fines
Belfast Corporation Acts, 1845 to 1948.	Failed to provide ashbin.	2	—	—
	Failed to register premises as butchers shop	1	—	P.O.A.
	Failed to register premises as a vendor of Fried Fish or Fried Potatoes ..	1	—	P.O.A.
	Vendor of Fried Fish or Fried Potatoes Bye-Laws:			
	Failed to maintain and repair preparation bench	1	—	5 0 0
	Failed to cleanse utensils	1	—	5 0 0
	Failed to wear clean washable overalls	3	—	3 0 0
	Failed to repair drains	13	—	2 5 0
Bye-Laws for Conveyance of Meat, 1930	Contravention of	1	—	1 0 0
Factories Acts (N.I.), 1938 and 1949	Contravention of	2	—	2 0 0
Hairdressers Act (N.I.), 1939 ..	Failed to register premises	1	—	—
Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878 and Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919	Contravention of Bye-Laws in respect of houses occupied by workers and let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family	183	—	70 13 6
	Disobedience (Continuing Offences) ..	11	—	11 14 6
Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1953 and Orders made under the Act of 1926	Exposing for sale imported raw tomatoes not bearing an indication of origin ..	4	—	1 5 0
	Exposing for sale imported fresh apples not bearing an indication of origin ..	2	—	0 10 0

Proceedings	Offences	Summonses	Orders	Fines
Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1946	Failed to abate Public Health nuisances	2,088	329	157 18 6
	Disobedience of Magistrates' Orders to abate Public Health nuisances	64	—	294 6 9
	Water closets not provided with sufficient water for flushing purposes	99	—	19 5 0
	Continuing offences under Section 23, Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	2	—	17 0 0
	Sold or exposed for sale food unfit for the food of man which was seized and destroyed by Order of Resident Magistrate	54	—	131 10 0
	Nuisance arising from the emission of black smoke	4	—	5 2 6
	Failed to provide additional sanitary accommodation	3	—	2 5 0
	Obstructing an authorised officer in the execution of his duties	1	—	2 0 0
Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations (N.I.), 1927 to 1953 and Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899	Sold foods containing prohibited preservatives	14	—	36 0 0
	Sold foods containing preservatives in excess of amount allowed	15	—	106 0 0
Public Health (Prevention of contamination of Food) Regulations, (N.I.) 1948	Failed to take all reasonable precautions to prevent contamination of food	3	—	3 10 0
	Food prepared and stored in a room communicating directly with a sanitary convenience	2	—	1 0 0
	Food stored in a room where there was an outlet for ventilation of a drain	8	—	7 0 0
	Failed to finish with a hard smooth and durable material, walls and ceilings in rooms where food was prepared	8	—	20 0 0
	Failed to keep in proper repair, walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors in a room where food was prepared	1	—	4 0 0
	Used a room as a living room or sleeping place in which food was stored	4	—	17 5 0
	Failed to secure and maintain suitable and sufficient means of ventilation in rooms used as food rooms	1	—	4 0 0
	Failed to observe due cleanliness of persons and clothing engaged in the preparation of food	1	—	2 0 0
	Failed to provide adequate washing facilities	7	—	12 0 0
	Failed to secure cleanliness of apparatus, utensils, etc., used in the preparation of food	5	—	6 10 0
	Failed to observe due cleanliness of rooms where food was deposited for sale	11	—	23 10 0
	Failed to take all reasonable precautions to protect food against contamination by animals and dirt	13	—	13 5 0
Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899	Adulteration of foodstuffs	29	—	55 15 0
Sale of Ice Cream Acts (N.I.), 1937 and 1950	Sold ice cream in unregistered premises	3	—	5 0 0
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	Failed to take necessary steps to destroy rats on premises	1	—	2 0 0

During the year eight District Sanitary Officers resigned to take up duty with other Health Authorities, and two District Sanitary Officers were appointed, (both received their training in the Department). Three Sanitary Officers were successful in qualifying as Inspectors in Meat and Other Foods, and one Officer was successful in qualifying as Smoke Inspector. The examinations were held by the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health.

Nine Pupil Sanitary Officers are engaged in fulltime training in the Department. Nine vacancies existed at the end of the year on the Department's establishment for qualified Sanitary Officers.

I am indebted to the Medical Officer of Health for his help and guidance and to the Sanitary and Clerical Staff of the Department for their willing and loyal co-operation in all matters throughout the year.

JOSEPH WALKER, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Sanitary Officer

RAINFALL IN INCHES FOR THE YEAR

TABLE B 53

Month	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January ..	2.27	3.60	4.73	1.78	3.05	3.05	4.19
February ..	4.27	3.52	1.04	1.61	4.57	3.87	1.31
March ..	1.83	3.16	1.61	0.41	4.96	1.27	1.77
April ..	5.35	2.08	1.77	2.09	0.75	3.03	1.50
May ..	1.76	2.94	1.25	2.49	4.03	3.15	1.85
June ..	2.52	2.32	3.19	1.53	3.05	5.26	3.27
July ..	6.08	4.99	2.19	6.39	4.17	1.64	3.77
August ..	6.07	5.61	6.16	3.30	2.87	1.18	6.69
September ..	7.97	3.10	2.26	2.67	5.15	4.79	4.19
October ..	3.24	1.36	4.39	2.17	7.08	2.83	3.15
November	3.11	8.11	3.42	4.23	7.27	3.31	2.12
December ..	3.53	5.75	5.05	3.62	6.66	6.69	6.10
	48.00	46.54	37.06	32.29	53.61	40.07	39.91

Data kindly supplied by the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners. Readings taken at Oldpark Station. Gauge at 200 feet O.D.

REPORT OF THE CITY VETERINARIAN FOR THE YEAR 1956

Report of the work at the Belfast Municipal Abattoir in connection with Ante-mortem and post-mortem examinations of animals slaughtered for human food.

Number and description of animals slaughtered each month.

TABLE C 1

Month	Cows	Heifers	Bulls	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Pigs
January ..	906	202	42	4,904	114	11,141	18	657
February ..	632	148	57	4,147	187	8,410	40	300
March	573	103	87	3,781	235	8,348	45	542
April ..	587	107	60	3,711	93	10,123	56	763
May	638	51	81	3,789	53	11,641	44	351
June	529	58	32	3,428	51	13,393	17	380
July	1,535	97	17	2,808	63	15,686	2	278
August ..	490	95	10	4,445	261	14,374	4	200
September ..	557	102	13	4,713	301	15,316	3	198
October ..	765	245	13	6,152	333	17,043	8	145
November ..	593	190	6	5,849	197	16,754	—	145
December ..	419	58	6	5,128	75	12,693	14	307
	8,224	1,456	424	52,855	1,963	154,922	251	4,266

TOTAL OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED—224,361

Compared with 1955, cattle show an increase of 8,918, calves a decrease of 425, sheep and lambs an increase of 28,072, goats an increase of 116 and pigs a decrease of 24,494.

Carcases condemned from all causes in 1956, compared with 1955.

TABLE C 2

Description	1955	1956
Cows	305	195
Heifers	25	35
Bulls	2	3
Bullocks	47	79
Calves	143	95
Sheep and Lambs	292	488
Goats	3	22
Pigs	222	100
	1,039	1,017

The percentage of carcases condemned from all causes at the Public Abattoir during the year 1956 was 0.4.

Diseased conditions which involved seizure and total destruction of carcases in 1956.

TABLE C 3

	CATTLE					Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Total
	Cows	Heifers	Bulls	Bullocks	Calves				
Abscesses	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Anaemia	—	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	6
Cysticercus Bovis . .	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	4
Decomposed	—	—	—	—	13	5	2	2	22
Dropsical	8	1	1	2	9	341	19	9	390
Enteritis	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	5
Fevered	18	2	—	6	8	39	1	13	87
Injured	10	—	—	1	—	19	—	2	32
Immature	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	—	44
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	4
Joint Ill	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	12
Neoplasms	5	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	12
Oedema	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	5
Pyaemia	1	—	—	5	—	4	—	9	19
Red Water	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Septicaemia	6	1	—	4	1	23	—	25	60
Septic Mastitis	12	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	14
Septic Metritis	5	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	9
Septic Pericarditis . .	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5
Septic Peritonitis . .	1	1	—	1	—	7	—	3	13
Septic Pleurisy . .	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	7
Septic Pneumonia . .	—	—	—	—	2	29	—	14	45
Swine Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Toxaemia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tetanus	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis	120	29	1	52	—	—	—	5	207
Total	195	35	3	79	95	488	22	100	1,017

In addition to the above there were 5 tons 18 cwts. 2 qrs. 11 lbs. of injured beef; 9 tons 15 cwts. 3 qrs. 20 lbs. beef for other causes (tuberculosis, etc.); 2 tons 11 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs. mutton; and 2 tons 5 cwt. 2 qr. 20 lbs. of pork seized as being unsound and unfit for human food.

Comparison between (a) Tuberculosis and (b) other diseases as causes of condemnation.

TABLE C 4

(a) Tuberculosis

	CATTLE			Sheep & Lambs	Goats	Pigs	Total
	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves				
Total Seizure	120	82	—	—	—	5	207
Partial Seizure	114	156	—	—	—	53	323
Total & Partial	234	238	—	—	—	58	530

(b) Other Diseased Conditions

	CATTLE			Sheep & Lambs	Goats	Pigs	Total
	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves				
Total Seizure	75	35	95	488	22	95	810
Partial Seizure	435	573	24	1,182	4	365	2,583
Total & Partial	510	608	119	1,670	26	460	3,393

It will be seen from the above table that tuberculosis in cattle is a most fruitful source of total seizure, accounting for about 64 per cent of the seizures, as compared with other diseased conditions.

Percentage by age periods of carcases condemned because of Tuberculosis in 1956.

TABLE C 5

	AGE							
	From one month to one year	Per Cent	From one to three years	Per Cent	From three to six years	Per Cent	Over six years	Per Cent
Cows	—	—	—	—	3	2.5	117	97.50
Heifers . .	—	—	17	58.62	12	41.37	—	—
Bulls	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	100.00
Bullocks . .	—	—	10	19.23	41	78.84	1	1.92
Calves . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	5	100.00	—	—	—	—	—	—

Percentage by condition of carcases condemned because of Tuberculosis in 1956.

TABLE C 6

	BY CONDITION							
	Good		Fair		Indifferent		Poor	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Cows	1	0.83	71	59.16	44	36.66	4	3.33
Heifers . .	—	—	28	96.55	1	3.44	—	—
Bulls	—	—	1	100.00	—	—	—	—
Bullocks . .	—	—	44	86.27	7	13.73	—	—
Calves . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	—	—	5	100.00	—	—	—	—

Diseased organs seized and destroyed in 1956 compared with 1955.

TABLE C 7

	1955	1956	Increase	Decrease
Beef:				
Heads	1,311	1,600	289	—
Tongues	1,210	1,511	301	—
Hearts	367	468	101	—
Lungs	2,335	2,311	—	24
Livers	10,852	18,516	7,664	—
Stomachs	480	489	9	—
Udders	1,779	1,499	—	280
Mesenteries	464	465	1	—
Omentum	483	456	—	27
Diaphragm	42	23	—	19
Kidneys	98	114	16	—
Mutton:				
Hearts	46	65	19	—
Lungs	101	224	123	—
Livers	8,624	11,874	3,250	—
Kidneys	12	28	16	—
Pork:				
Heads	513	94	—	419
Tongues	513	94	—	419
Hearts	186	40	—	146
Lungs	895	297	—	598
Livers	855	245	—	610
Kidneys	22	10	—	12
Goats:				
Livers	10	3	—	7

The above does not include the viscera of animals totally destroyed.

Percentage incidence of generalised Tuberculosis in animals slaughtered in 1956 compared with 1955.

TABLE C 8

	1955	1956
Cows	1.92	1.45
Other Cattle	0.11	0.14
Cattle (all classes)	0.49	0.49
Calves	—	—
Pigs	0.06	0.11

Amount of Beef, Mutton, Pork, etc., presented for examination.

TABLE C 9

BEEF	592 sides, 2,135 quarters, and 135 cuts examined; 1 ton, 3 cwt., 1 qr., 7 lbs. seized and destroyed.
MUTTON	2,306 carcases and 38 cuts were examined; 39 carcases, 1 qr., 8 lbs. seized and destroyed.
PORK	737 carcases examined; 70 carcases and 3 cwt., 2 qrs., 17 lbs. seized and destroyed.
FOWL	172 examined; 172 seized and destroyed.
TINNED MEATS ..	299 Examined; 299 seized and destroyed.
FISH, etc.	1 ton, 4 cwt., of herring, kippers, etc., seized or surrendered.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

During the year cysticercus bovis infections were shown to be present to the extent of 1.11 per cent of all bovines slaughtered at the Abattoir. Compared with the previous year (1955) this shows a decrease of .49 per cent.

During the year there were four instances in which the disease existed in a generalised form the parasite being widely distributed throughout the carcase musculature. In all other instances the parasite was confined to the masseter muscles of the animal.

This parasite is of great importance from a meat inspection aspect as it is communicable to man if the meat is eaten in raw or improperly cooked state, giving rise to the tape worm "Taenia Saginata".

SERVICES RENDERED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS

During the year a general supervision of health of the animals of the several Committees of the Corporation was exercised. Fortunately most of the work during the year was in the nature of preventive veterinary medicine.

There are no private Slaughter Houses in the City: all animals to be slaughtered in Belfast for human consumption must be brought to the Public Abattoir, situated in Stewart Street adjacent to the Cattle Market and Cattle Yards.

The Slaughter of Animals Act (Northern Ireland), 1932, makes it compulsory for all animals slaughtered for human food to be stunned by means of a mechanically-operated instrument and rendered insensible to pain until death supervenes.

The abattoir is designed so that the slaughter of cattle, sheep, and pigs is carried out in three different departments. The lairages for the different animals are quite convenient to the killing booths, yet the animals cannot see their fellows being slaughtered. The cooling halls are situated quite close to the slaughter halls and all carcases can be easily conveyed there by means of an overhead rail system.

The cattle slaughter halls are a combination of the open halls and booth system. An extensive cold storage plant is attached to the Abattoir, and during the summer months this is utilised to a great extent by the trade.

According to the By-laws, all persons employed in the slaughtering and dressing of animals must be licensed and during the year 86 such licences were issued.

All the larger animals at the Abattoir are stunned by means of a Cash Captive Bolt Gun prior to bleeding and in the case of smaller animals an electrical apparatus known as an Electrolethaler is used.

To my staff for their loyal support and manner in which they carried out their duties at all times, I say, thanks.

ALEX. McLEAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., D.V.H.

REPORT OF SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER, MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH DIVISION, FOR THE YEAR 1956

Notification of Births Act

The total number of births notified as occurring in the area during the year was 10,779, and in addition 1 was discovered by a Health Visitor, making a total of 10,780. Of these 5,497 were males, 5,281 were females, 2 sex unknown; 334 were still-births.

TABLE D 1

Births Occurring in	
Hospitals	7,088
Private Nursing Homes	397
Other Institutions	109
Home	2,807
Home (Hosp. Dist. Cases)	379
Total	10,780

Infant Mortality

During the year, 240 children died under the age of 12 months giving an infant mortality rate of 29. The rate for the previous year was 37.

The year was particularly free from epidemics and there was a marked reduction in the number of deaths from prematurity, diarrhoea and enteritis, pneumonia and bronchitis.

Neo-Natal Mortality

Deaths occurring during the first month of life numbered 146, giving a neo-natal rate for the year of 18. The rate for the previous year was 21.

Maternal Mortality

The number of women who died from pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperal state during the year was 6, giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.73 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 0.6. Table D13 shows the Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live births analysed according to the cause of death.

Health Visiting

45 Health Visitors were employed at the end of the year, including four seconded temporarily to the Health Visitors Training Course. There are still insufficient applicants for the posts and the number continues below the establishment.

The routine visitation and supervision of the health of infants and young children forms the main part of the work, but the after-care of ex-hospital patients and the follow-up of special cases also occupies a considerable portion of the health visitor's time. Certain diabetic cases are assisted with their diet.

Regular liaison visits are made once or twice weekly to hospitals by certain members of the staff, the information exchanged being most helpful.

While advice regarding the prevention of home accidents is a normal part of the health visitor's work, during the autumn months the staff co-operated with the Ministry of Health and Local Government in their Home Safety Campaign and laid special emphasis on accident prevention.

The Health Visitors continue to assist the Welfare Department in the administration of the Home Help Scheme as far as expectant mothers and mothers of young children are concerned, and a close liaison is maintained with that Department in many aspects of child care.

They had the opportunity of attending refresher courses during the year and certain members gave lectures in connection with training courses for girl students.

Visits paid during the year were as follows:—

(1) To expectant mothers: First visits, 1,013; Re-visits, 1,415; Total, 2,428.

(2) To children under one year of age: First visits, 7,972; Re-visits, 47,338; Total, 55,310.

(3) To children between 1 and 5 years: 69,584.

Ante-Natal Clinics

As the great majority of expectant mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinics make arrangements through the clinics for their confinement in hospital the Medical Officer maintains close contact with the hospitals. At the Royal Maternity Hospital she also assists at one of the Ante-Natal sessions, and is a member of the Honorary Medical Staff.

Specimens of blood are taken for examination for Group, Rh factor, Wasserman, etc., and the arrangement whereby private medical practitioners can refer their cases to the clinics for these tests is being increasingly availed of. Some medical practitioners also refer abnormal cases for a second opinion.

Instruction in Gas and Air Analgesia and in relaxation has been continued in combination with a special series of Mothercraft talks. Theses are open to all ante-natal cases irrespective of whether they are attending for ante-natal supervision or not.

Clinics and Attendances:

TABLE D 2

	1st Visit	Re-visits
Spier's Place, Shankill Road (Monday)	55	501
Grovefield School, Mount Street	170	1,102
Mersey Street, Church Hall	121	707
Mountcollyer Street	81	598
Spier's Place, Shankill Road (Wednesday)	88	647
Ariel Street	69	410
Hawthorne Street (R. M. Hosp.)	151	977
	735	4,942

1,527 Blood Tests were carried out during the year.

Child Health Centres

The number of sessions provided at the end of the year was 36 per week.

As there is still no alternative accommodation available a number of the sessions continue to be held in very unsuitable premises.

The talks to mothers with film strip illustrations were continued during the winter months and special stress was again placed on the prevention of accidents. In addition, members of the Health Visiting Staff addressed meetings of several organisations on Health topics.

Our thanks are again due to the members of the Voluntary Workers' Association for their valuable assistance throughout the year.

Centres and Attendances:

TABLE D 3

		Under 1 year	Over 1 year
Highfield	(Monday)	2,481	1,449
York Street	,,	2,335	955
Ariel Street	,,	2,980	452
Bloomfield	,,	4,353	1,607
Stranmillis	,,	2,992	1,158
Donegall Road	,,	3,663	939
Glenard	(Tuesday)	4,002	1,393
Havelock Place	,,	3,196	1,331
Mersey Street	,,	3,602	1,101
Donegall Road	,,	2,576	610
Bread Street	,,	3,289	1,210
Woodstock	,,	3,620	1,274
Ariel Street	,,	2,919	983
Avoca Street	(Wednesday)	1,682	395
Bread Street	,,	3,105	1,364
Ligoniel	,,	2,187	497
Seaview	,,	3,520	1,134
Windsor	,,	2,548	870
Woodstock	,,	3,049	1,107
Palmerston Road	,,	1,777	997
Avoca Street	(Thursday)	4,072	1,034
Kimberley Street	,,	4,076	1,592
Greencastle	,,	2,976	1,568
Mountcollyer	,,	3,094	939
Spier's Place	,,	2,830	691
Bread Street	,,	2,142	1,183
Susan Street	,,	4,901	2,708
Woodstock	,,	3,794	1,185
Malone	(Friday)	1,701	1,751
Ariel Street	,,	2,946	450
Bread Street	,,	2,508	1,278
Joanmount	,,	1,972	575
Spier's Place	,,	2,870	732
Sydenham	,,	4,368	1,558
Woodstock	,,	3,144	1,072
Ballymurphy	,,	2,371	1,773
	Total Attendances	109,641	40,915

Mother and Baby Homes

(Ante and Post-Natal Hostels)

TABLE D 4

Name and address of Home or Hostel	NUMBER OF BEDS						Average length of stay	
	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Labour	Isolation	Maternity (excluding labour and isolation)	Cots	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal
(a) Hopedene	3	11	—	—	—	11	4-6 weeks	3-4 months
(b) Thorndale	3	4	2	1	25	16	7 weeks	14 weeks

The total number of City cases admitted during the year was 20.

These hostels are in receipt of a grant from the Health Committee.

Residential Nurseries

TABLE D 5

Name and address of Nursery	Whether long stay or short stay	Number of Beds provided at the end of year				
		Aged 0-9 mths.	10 mth.- 2 years	Aged 2-5	Girls over 5	Boys over 5
Glendhu Hostel Holywood Road . . (A voluntary Hostel in receipt of a grant from the Health Committee).	Short Stay	3	2	3	6	9

251 children resident in Belfast were admitted to the Hostel during the year.

Communicable Diseases

TABLE D 6

	(1) Ophthalmia Neonatorum		(2) Pemphigus Neonatorum		(3) Puerperal Fever		(4) Puerperal Pyrexia	
	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements	Dom. Confinements	Instit. Confinements
Number of cases notified during year	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	33
Number of cases visited by Officers of the Local Authority	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	24
Number of cases removed to hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—

Midwives

TABLE D 7

	Domiciliary Midwives	No. in Inst. other than Hospitals	Midwives in Hospitals	Midwives in Nursing Homes	Total
Total number of Midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority . .	64	22	122	23	231

Number of cases in which Medical Aid was summoned during the year under Section 22 of the Midwives (Ireland) Act, 1918, by a midwife:—

(i)	For domiciliary cases	8
(ii)	For cases in Institutions other than Hospitals	10
	Total	18

4 midwives were suspended for short periods during the year in order to prevent the spread of infection.

Domiciliary Midwives

No additional midwives were recruited to the service during the year, and the midwifery panel consisted of 13 salaried midwives and 41 midwives paid on a fee-per-case basis. The lack of living accommodation continues to be a big obstacle in the recruitment of midwives, and, unfortunately, progress in this field is slow. The service therefore continues to be largely dependent on the older midwives, many of whom are at or about retiring age, and the staffing position may be very acute in a year or two.

Allowances to cover uniform, laundry and travelling are granted; the uniform being that laid down by the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council. Equipment is issued on loan, and all drugs, dressings, etc., in use are supplied to the midwives.

Special cots, etc., for the care of premature babies are available. The trend however is for these babies to be admitted to the special nurseries attached to the two large maternity hospitals in the City.

Refresher courses are arranged from time to time.

The midwives attended a total of 3,094 domiciliary cases during the year.

Maternity Medical Services

General Medical Practitioners agreeing to provide maternity medical services in domiciliary cases are enrolled on a panel maintained in the department and are paid on a fee-per-case basis. Both the doctor and the midwife are thus employed by the Health Committee.

The following is a summary of the work carried out under the scheme by Medical Practitioners during the year:—

TABLE D 8

Number of domiciliary confinments at which General Practitioner attended	2,943
Number of women confined at home who were examined ante-natally	2,904
Total number of ante-natal examinations made of women confined at home	21,596
Number of women referred to institutions for confinement who were examined ante-natally	610
Total number of ante-natal examinations made of women confined in institutions ..	4,418
Total number of final pelvic examinations made of women confined at home	2,737
Total number of final pelvic examinations made of women confined in institutions ..	322
Number of cases of abortion attended	479
Number of anaesthetics given by second practitioner	82

Registration of Nursing Homes

TABLE D 9

	Number of Homes	Number of beds provided for:—		
		Maternity	Dual Purposes	Total
Homes first registered during the year ..	—	—	—	—
Homes on the register at the end of the year	18	57	75	132

Action during 1956:

Number of applications for registration refused	—
Number of exemptions granted	—
Number of exemptions withdrawn	—
Number of registrations cancelled	1
Number of appeals by aggrieved persons to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction	—
Number of cases in which fines were imposed	—
Number of inspections	201
Number of registered homes not inspected	—

The inspections during the year were made by the Assistant Medical Officer, the Superintendent Nursing Officer, and the Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers.

In conclusion I would like to express to the members of the staff my sincere appreciation of the excellent manner in which they discharged their duties throughout the year.

H. A. WARNOCK, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
Senior Medical Officer.

TABLE D 10

Deaths of Infants under one year associated with Prematurity, and, in the Post-Natal period associated with Diarrhoea and Enteritis, Pneumonia, Broncho-Pneumonia, and Bronchitis

	1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births
Prematurity	107	10.19	118	12.11	126	13.72	107	12.11	102	11.61	108	12.69	84	9.85	74	8.91	78	9.62	53	6.45
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	105	10.00	61	6.26	101	11.00	37	4.19	45	5.12	57	6.70	65	7.62	24	2.89	29	3.58	8	0.97
Pneumonia, Broncho-Pneumonia and Bronchitis	167	15.90	80	8.21	88	9.58	88	9.96	52	5.91	40	4.70	56	6.57	49	5.90	35	4.32	28	3.41

Infant Mortality by Causes and Sex

TABLE D 11

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Month				1-11 Months			Total Under 1 Year	
	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Males	Females	Total	No.	Rate per 1,000 live births
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other Forms	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	0.12
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal sore throat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	4	2	6	6	0.73
Meningococcal Infections	1	1	2	0.24	3	1	4	6	0.73
Other Disease of Heart	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	4	0.48
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	0.36
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	15	10	25	25	3.04
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	0.36
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Duodenitis, Enteritis and Colitis, except Diarrhoea of the new born	—	—	—	—	4	4	8	8	0.97
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	22	17	39	4.87	7	9	16	55	6.69
Birth Injury, Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis									
(a) with prematurity	6	11	17	2.07	—	—	—	17	2.07
(b) without prematurity	15	7	22	2.67	1	1	2	24	2.92
Infections of New-Born									
(a) with prematurity	1	1	2	0.24	—	—	—	2	0.24
(b) without prematurity	2	4	6	0.73	—	—	—	6	0.73
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy									
(a) with prematurity	20	14	34	4.14	—	—	—	34	4.14
(b) without prematurity	9	9	18	2.19	—	—	—	18	2.19
All other Causes	3	1	4	0.48	5	3	8	12	1.46
Accidents	1	—	1	0.12	7	6	13	14	1.70
Unknown Causes	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	0.12

Infant Mortality (By Age Groups)

TABLE D 12

Sex	Under 1 day	1 day and less than 7 days	1-4 weeks	1-2 months	2-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	Total	Deaths of Illegitimate children
Males	28	37	15	14	7	19	11	131	8
Females	34	22	10	4	11	17	11	109	2
Total	62	59	25	18	18	36	22	240	10

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births according to cause of death.

TABLE D 13

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	1	0.12
Placenta Praevia	2	0.24
Abortion with sepsis	1	0.12
Delivery complicated by Placenta Praevia or Ante-partum haemorrhage	1	0.12
Puerperal eclampsia	1	0.12

Infant Mortality Rate, 1937—1956

TABLE D 14

YEAR	Deaths per 1,000 Births	YEAR	Deaths per 1,000 Births
1937	94	1947	60
1938	96	1948	45
1939	85	1949	56
1940	122	1950	49
1941	91	1951	44
1942	92	1952	47
1943	111	1953	45
1944	89	1954	39
1945	84	1955	37
1946	61	1956	29

Home Nursing Service

The Home Nursing Staff consists of 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Senior Nurse, 37 Queens Nurses and 4 training staff.

There were 15 nurses in training during the year. 13 were Staff candidates and 2 were County candidates. The training remains at a high standard and several of the candidates obtained credits in various subjects at the examination.

The Superintendent attended a Training Conference arranged by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing in May.

6 Senior Home Nurses attended a Refresher Course arranged by the Royal College of Nursing in November.

The demand for the services of the District Nurse for nursing attention to patients in their own homes continues to increase. The total number of visits paid during the year was 203,904, in comparison with 197,772 in 1955.

Sick room requisites such as Dunlopillo mattresses, air cushions, bed-rests, rubber sheeting, bed-pans, etc., are sent out to patients on loan when required.

Home Nursing Service

Statistics of Work Done, 1956

TABLE D 15

A.	Number of Cases:—		
(i)	Brought forward from 1955		1,078
(ii)	New cases taken on during 1956		5,091
	(Analysis of new cases:—		
	Tuberculosis ..	199	
	Cancer ..	240	
	Diabetes ..	109	
	Gynaecological ..	27	
	Pneumonia ..	143	
	Surgical ..	649	
	General Medical ..	3,724)	
(iii)	Removed during 1956		5,016
	(Cause of removal:—		
	Convalescent ..	3,274	
	Died ..	637	
	To Hospital ..	768	
	Other Causes ..	337)	
	Remaining on books at end of 1956		1,153
B.	Analysis of Visits made to all cases in 1956:—		
	Tuberculosis ..	9,535	
	Cancer ..	13,689	
	Diabetes ..	41,460	
	Gynaecological ..	570	
	Pneumonia ..	1,525	
	Surgical ..	25,760	
	General Medical ..	111,365	
	Total Visits ..	203,904	

REPORT OF THE SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER, SCHOOL HEALTH DIVISION, FOR THE YEAR 1956

Throughout 1956 the School Health Service carried out its duties on the usual lines. The main legislation under which this work is done consists of the Education Act (N.I.) 1947, the School Health Service Regulations (N.I.) 1948, the Handicapped Pupils and Special Schools Regulations (N.I.) 1948, the Mental Health Act (N.I.) 1948, the Health Services Act (N.I.) 1948, and the Children and Young Persons Act (N.I.) 1950. These enactments, in so far as they affect the School Health Service, closely correspond to the practice in Great Britain, with the outstanding exception that the Service in Northern Ireland is operated by the Health Committee of the Local Authority, whereas in Great Britain the Education Committee is in charge. As originally framed the Education Act (N.I.) 1948 laid the duties of the School Health Service on the Education Committee; these duties were given to the Health Committee by the Transfer of Functions (No. 2) Order (N.I.) 1948. Towards the end of 1956 the Education (Amendment) Act (N.I.) 1956 was passed, the appointed day for the Act to take effect being 1st January, 1957; this has the effect of transferring back to the Education Committee the duty to ascertain handicapped and ineducable children between the ages of two and sixteen years. Other effects of the recent amending Act are mentioned later.

Belfast Grant-Aided Schools

The various types of grant-aided schools in the City and the number of pupils attending them are given in Table E1. Compared with 1955 this shows one nursery school and two county primary schools closed down. One additional voluntary secondary school for boys, St. Gabriel's, was opened in 1956. This is a Roman Catholic School in a fine modern building pleasantly situated at Ballysillan. In 1956 also there was opened the first Roman Catholic special school for educationally subnormal boys, St. Aloysius', where by the end of the year eighty pupils were enrolled.

The City has also a number of schools which receive no grant; these and their pupils have hitherto been outside the province of the School Health Service; but the new Education (Amendment) Act now allows children attending these schools to have the treatment and other services we provide if they wish to do so. Routine examinations of pupils are still not done, however.

School Medical Inspections

The total number of examinations shown in Table E 2 is slightly higher than the previous year; fewer routine examinations and more re-examinations were made. Again this year few examinations were made in Group II, the 8 to 9 year olds, owing to lack of time.

At the beginning of 1956 the method of recording the results of Routine Medical Inspections and of Re-examinations was altered to conform with the practice in other areas of Northern Ireland and in Great Britain. Valid comparisons may now be made between our results and findings elsewhere.

The relevant Tables E 8, 14 and 15 correspondingly vary from those given in previous years.

Attendance of Parents at Routine Medical Inspections

This year in Table E 4 is shown the response of parents to our request that they should be present whilst their child is examined at school. The examination is clearly of more value when the doctor and nurse can discuss their findings with a parent at the school, bringing the teacher into the picture where appropriate so that special arrangements can be made to overcome any difficulties the child may be having.

As might have been expected the percentage of parents who turn up decreases as the children get older; it is also not surprising that more parents come for girls than for boys both at primary and at secondary schools. It is perhaps surprising that at all ages in both sexes the parent is less likely to attend the inspection at a secondary school than at a primary, and it is disappointing that of all the Routine Medical Inspections during the year only 41.2% were done in the presence of a parent.

School Milk and Meals

In Table E 5 are set out the percentages of children examined at Routine Medical Inspections who take school milk and school meals. The children have been grouped according to the medical officers' assessment of their nutritional state. It is interesting to note that 98% of primary schoolchildren take the milk provided at school whereas only 93.9% of secondary schoolchildren do so. That only 19.7% of primary schoolchildren have school meals as against 52.4% of secondary schoolchildren reflects the wider provision of meals at secondary schools rather than lack of demand at primary schools. At primary schools the worse a child's nutritional assessment the more likely is he to take the school milk; at secondary schools this trend is reversed.

Defects Discovered at Routine Medical Inspection

The numbers of defects found are set out in Table E 8. This differs from the corresponding table of previous years in now having the defects classified according to the standard procedure in use elsewhere, but comparison with previous years can still be made for most of the defects listed. The continued decline in tuberculous disease can be noted; no non-pulmonary tuberculous disease requiring treatment was found, and the incidence of enlarged glands in the neck fell from 6.3 per thousand needing treatment and 15.1 needing observation in 1955, to 1.3 and 9.8 respectively in 1956. Compared with 1955 the numbers per thousand having defects of heart, lungs and skin are somewhat increased.

Visual Acuity

Table E 8 shows the numbers of children found to need treatment or observation by reason of defective vision, and Table E 9 shows the distribution of visual acuities in the children examined. A much larger proportion of children are now kept under observation for vision than before; this is because we now make every effort to test the vision of entrants, in many of whom it is not possible to arrive at a definite assessment because of their immaturity. Many cases of defective vision are now discovered soon after entry to school, and early treatment can then be provided. The medical officer has at the school a variety of test materials, including the normal Snellen's type, number and picture charts, "illiterate E", and recently introduced with much success the Sjögren "hands" test. Assessment of a 5 year old's visual acuity is a time-consuming but rewarding procedure.

In 1955 the visual acuity could not be accurately assessed in 2,224 primary and 117 secondary schoolchildren; in 1956 with practice at testing the very young the medical officers have reduced the corresponding figures to 521 and 16. It is hoped eventually to improve further on this, but there will always be a residue of children who cannot be assessed at Routine Inspections because of intercurrent diseases of the eye and because at any given time a considerable number have their eyes under the influence of atropine for about ten days to facilitate refraction by the eye specialist.

In Table E 9 it is interesting to note that visual acuity whether normal or defective tends to be equal in each eye, but if it is not equal in each the right is much more commonly the better eye. This is, of course, the expected finding, and is linked with the predominance of right-handedness.

During 1956, 6,136 children attended the eye specialist for refraction, and 156 for other ophthalmic work. The Ophthalmic Hospital continued to provide orthoptic advice and treatment for our children, of whom 128 new cases were given appointments in 1956.

Colour Vision

In Table E 10 is shown for the first time our results of colour vision testing at Routine Medical Inspections. The practice during 1956 was to test the "leavers"; that is to say at primary schools Group IV, and at secondary schools Group V and part of Group IV.

The Ishihara test was used, and the children were classified into "normal", "defective-safe", and "defective-unsafe", the practice employed in the Royal Air Force.

Our finding of 4.3% boys and 0.2% girls defective-unsafe corresponds approximately with the expected incidence.

Amongst the information which we pass to the Youth Advisory Service, abnormalities of colour vision are included; use is made of this information in placing school leavers in suitable employment. Amongst the trades where normal colour vision is necessary are electricians, painters and decorators, engine and bus drivers, some branches of the advertising, printing and card-punching industries, many branches of the armed forces and merchant navy, and in most trades concerned in any way with traffic control.

Tuberculin Tests

Table E 11 shows the results of tuberculin tests carried out in conjunction with Routine Medical Inspections. This demonstrates the increasing percentage of positive reactors found with each year of age; the greatest proportion of conversions to positive reaction would appear to take place between the ages of 10 and 12 years, and our policy of offering B.C.G. vaccination to this age group as well as to leavers receives support.

Throughout the year we co-operated with the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority in an experimental scheme to trace adult cases of pulmonary tuberculosis by finding reactors amongst the young schoolchildren. All school entrants except those known to have had B.C.G. vaccination were offered a tuberculin test at the time of their first school medical inspection. Those whose parents consented were given the Heaf multiple puncture test by the school nurse, and the names of reactors were passed to the B.C.G. Department of the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority, who offered the children and their contacts over 13 years of age an X-ray examination.

Although a small number of adult cases came to light as a result of the scheme, it was decided not to continue after the end of the year because the yield did not justify the large amount of effort expended. The scheme and its results are fully set out in the Annual Report for 1956 of the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority.

Our total incidence of positive reactors in schoolchildren at 11.4% is the lowest yet recorded in Belfast. The inclusion in this year's figures of the large group of entrants, most of whom as expected turned out to be negative, contributes largely to this low incidence. The use of the Heaf multiple puncture test throughout 1956 in place of the tuberculin jelly test used in previous years is another contributory factor since the jelly test is liable to show a number of doubtful positive reactions. But, in addition, the general decrease in tuberculosis throughout the community has undoubtedly resulted in a real decline in the number of positive reactors to be found amongst schoolchildren of all ages.

The B.C.G. vaccination programme was continued throughout 1956, and as usual vaccination was offered to non-reactors in Groups III, IV and V.

The rather high percentage of refusals at 9.0% does not necessarily come from indifferent or unco-operative parents. Many of these may have refused to allow their children to be tuberculin tested because it had recently been done elsewhere, or because of illness or other valid reason.

History of Infectious Diseases

Before each Routine Medical Inspection the parent is asked to complete an enquiry form showing the various illnesses the child has had. Table E 12 has been compiled from the answers given to this inquiry which relate to certain infectious diseases.

It is seen that so far as parents' memory goes, measles, whooping cough, chickenpox, and mumps are the most frequent infectious diseases in that order. At primary schools the next three diseases in order of frequency are German measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria; at secondary schools they are scarlet fever, German measles and rheumatic fever.

The higher incidence of infection in secondary schoolchildren of all ages almost throughout the table must surely reflect more accurate response to our inquiry by the parents of these children. Similarly the finding that the incidence of each disease decreases with increasing age in primary schoolchildren, but not in secondary schoolchildren where the trend is, in fact, reversed suggests that the parents of secondary schoolchildren are more likely to remember their children's past history.

The great frequency with which a history of diphtheria is given, 128 cases (0.8%) in primary and 12 cases (0.4%) in secondary schoolchildren, must indicate uncertainty in the minds of parents as to what diphtheria is. The 12 cases noted at secondary schools are confined to children in Groups IV and V, and these may have been genuine cases. But of the 128 cases of alleged diphtheria in primary schoolchildren 94 are said to have occurred in entrants; since 1950 there has been very little diphtheria in Belfast, probably less than a dozen cases in all.

Action Taken as a Result of Routine Medical Inspection

Critics of the School Health Service have suggested that Routine Medical Inspection of schoolchildren is superfluous in the present circumstances, when free medical advice and treatment are available to all. It has been said that either these examinations should be abandoned altogether or confined to entrants only. We are accused at times of simply recording defects which are already being dealt with.

In Table E 13 is shown a summary of the various transactions resulting from Routine Medical Inspections in 1956. This takes no account of the many thousands of transactions connected with tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination; nor can we reckon the great number of occasions when advice was given to parent, teacher, and child by the doctor or nurse at the school. There remains a formidable list of items at both primary and secondary schools, 5,134 in all, which in the opinion of the school doctor required attention not already being given.

Handicapped Pupils

In Table E 16 the handicapped pupils are enumerated showing their present disposal. This year the handicaps have been classified according to the definitions laid down in the Handicapped Pupils and Special Schools Regulations (N.I.) 1948. This year also we have adhered closely to the terms of each definition, and have not included in the table many children who appeared in previous years. Thus, in the case of the partially sighted, the delicate, and the physically handicapped the numbers shown are substantially reduced. There remain in the city however several hundreds of children on the borderline for inclusion in each of these three categories; they are under constant review by the school medical officers, and many of them will eventually qualify for the term handicapped pupils.

This year also a change has been made in that handicaps have been listed rather than pupils. Multiple handicaps are much more frequent than is generally realised, and if an attempt is made to include each child only once the compiler of a table such as E 16 is faced with an impossible choice when presented for example with a child who is blind and deaf. The actual numbers of pupils are given in a footnote to the table.

Cleanliness Inspections

The recent Education (Amendment) Act has altered Section 50 of the Education Act (N.I.) 1947 so that the powers of the Health Authority to ensure cleanliness and freedom from vermin in school-children are now more clearly stated. During 1956, 162,318 examinations of children's heads were made by the health visitors; these showed 4.7% infested with nits and another 1.6% with nits and adult lice. This continues the slight but steady annual decline in the percentage of verminous children found over the past five years.

Tables E 1 to E 18 and the report of the Chief Dental Officer which follows them summarise the work of the School Health Service for the year 1956.

A. L. WALBY, M.B., D.P.H.,
Senior Medical Officer.

Belfast Grant-Aided Schools

TABLE E 1

	Type of School	Number	Pupils
	Nursery Schools and Classes	8	334
Primary‡	County Primary Schools	81	34,799
	Voluntary Primary Schools under School Committees	3	689
	Voluntary Primary Schools under Lay Manager	1	213
	Voluntary Primary Schools under Roman Catholic Management	63	21,762
	Special Schools	5	760
Secondary‡	County Secondary Schools	14	8,532
	Voluntary Secondary Schools †(Participating)	13	8,381
	Voluntary Secondary Schools †(Non-participating)‡‡	4	2,258

‡ These groups of schools are considered separately where possible in the following tables.

‡‡ These schools conduct their own schemes of medical and dental inspection and treatment under the provisions of Section 42 (6) of the Education Act (N.I.), 1947.

† Includes preparatory school in most cases.

School Medical Inspections

TABLE E 2

Type of School	Sex	Routines							Specials	Re-examinations	Totals
		Age Groups						Totals			
		Nursery	Entrants	II	III	IV	V				
Primary Schools	Boys	360	4,094	5	2,691	1,528	—	8,678	384	5,426	14,488
	Girls	272	3,849	2	2,720	1,668	—	8,511	327	5,561	14,399
Secondary Schools	Boys	—	48	—	176	1,281	380	1,885	12	641	2,538
	Girls	—	94	—	144	526	220	984	5	519	1,508
Totals	Both	632	8,085	7	5,731	5,003	600	20,058	728	12,147	32,933

Average Heights and Weights

TABLE E 3

Boys

Age	Number Examined		Average Weight Pounds		Average Height Inches	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
4	165	7	40.1	40.3	41.6	42.4
5	2,244	27	42.4	44.1	43.2	44.7
6	1,334	12	45.1	49.4	44.8	47.3
7	315	1	49.5	51.0	46.8	46.5
8	59	—	54.6	—	49.8	—
9	575	49	66.4	69.5	53.0	54.1
10	1,726	114	70.1	73.5	54.1	55.5
11	526	20	74.2	75.1	55.1	56.1
12	762	263	82.4	89.2	57.6	58.9
13	549	822	89.3	95.2	59.0	60.3
14	63	188	99.1	104.0	61.3	62.4
15	—	175	—	129.8	—	67.0
16	—	192	—	132.5	—	68.5
17	—	10	—	140.8	—	68.9
18	—	4	—	142.5	—	68.8
19	—	1	—	165.0	—	74.0

Girls

Age	Number Examined		Average Weight Pounds		Average Height Inches	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
4	179	8	38.6	39.2	41.2	43.3
5	2,158	71	40.5	43.5	42.6	44.3
6	1,217	13	43.4	43.6	44.4	44.9
7	245	1	46.6	58.0	45.9	47.5
8	61	4	54.8	66.0	49.4	52.3
9	667	43	62.9	68.6	52.4	53.9
10	1,622	90	68.1	72.8	53.6	55.4
11	586	9	73.3	77.0	55.3	56.6
12	832	143	84.8	96.0	57.9	60.7
13	608	336	92.1	102.6	59.2	61.6
14	62	50	97.5	104.9	59.2	62.1
15	2	103	99.0	122.0	59.6	64.1
16	—	110	—	123.8	—	64.3
17	—	2	—	134.0	—	64.1
18	—	1	—	158.0	—	65.2
19	—	—	—	—	—	—

Attendance of Parents at Routine Medical Inspections

TABLE E 4

Age Group	Primary		Secondary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Entrants	2,506 (61.2%)	2,457 (63.8%)	22 (45.8%)	46 (48.9%)
II	1 (20.0%)	1 (50.0%)	—	—
III	955 (35.5%)	1,313 (48.3%)	32 (18.2%)	37 (25.7%)
IV	200 (13.1%)	315 (18.9%)	50 (3.9%)	58 (11.0%)
V	—	—	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.9%)
	3,662 (44.0%)	4,086 (49.6%)	105 (5.6%)	143 (14.5%)
Totals	7,748 (46.8%)		248 (8.6%)	
	7,996 (41.2%)			

School Milk and Meals

TABLE E 5

Nutrition Assessment	Primary				Secondary			
	Milk		Meals		Milk		Meals	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Normal	14,117 (98.0%)	293 (2.0%)	2,881 (20.0%)	11,529 (80.0%)	2,488 (94.0%)	160 (6.0%)	1,406 (53.1%)	1,242 (46.9%)
Subnormal	1,996 (98.2%)	37 (1.8%)	359 (17.7%)	1,674 (82.3%)	201 (93.9%)	13 (6.1%)	95 (44.4%)	119 (55.6%)
Bad	113 (99.1%)	1 (0.9%)	19 (16.7%)	95 (83.3%)	6 (85.7%)	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)	6 (85.7%)
Totals	16,226 (98.0%)	331 (2.0%)	3,259 (19.7%)	13,298 (80.3%)	2,695 (93.9%)	174 (6.1%)	1,502 (52.4%)	1,367 (47.6%)

TABLE E 6

Vaccination

Type of School	Sex	Entrants		II		III		IV		V		Totals	
		No. Examined	Number Unsatisfactory	No. Examined	Number Unsatisfactory	No. Examined	Number Unsatisfactory	No. Examined	Number Unsatisfactory	No. Examined	Number Unsatisfactory	No. Examined	Number Unsatisfactory
Primary ..	Boys	4,094	1,023 (25.0%)	5	—	2,691	665 (24.7%)	1,528	450 (29.5%)	—	—	8,318	2,138 (25.7%)
	Girls	3,849	966 (25.1%)	2	—	2,720	658 (24.2%)	1,668	401 (24.0%)	—	—	8,239	2,025 (24.6%)
	Both	7,943	1,989 (25.0%)	7	—	5,411	1,323 (24.5%)	3,196	851 (26.6%)	—	—	16,557	4,163 (25.1%)
Secondary ..	Boys	48	10 (20.8%)	—	—	176	25 (14.2%)	1,281	242 (18.9%)	380	99 (26.1%)	1,885	376 (19.9%)
	Girls	94	31 (33.0%)	—	—	144	20 (13.9%)	526	59 (11.2%)	220	53 (24.1%)	984	163 (16.6%)
	Both	142	41 (28.9%)	—	—	320	45 (14.1%)	1,807	301 (16.7%)	600	152 (25.3%)	2,869	539 (18.8%)
Totals ..	Both	8,085	2,030 (25.1%)	7	—	5,731	1,368 (23.9%)	5,003	1,152 (23.0%)	600	152 (25.3%)	19,426	4,702 (24.2%)

Nutrition

TABLE E 7

Age Group	Type of School	NORMAL (A)				SUB-NORMAL (B)				BAD (C)			
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
Entrants	Primary	3,552	(86.8%)	3,248	(84.4%)	504	(12.3%)	557	(14.5%)	38	(0.9%)	44	(1.2%)
	Secondary	45	(93.8%)	82	(87.2%)	2	(4.2%)	10	(10.6%)	1	(2.1%)	2	(2.1%)
II	Primary	4	(80.0%)	1	(50.0%)	1	(20.0%)	1	(50.0%)	—	—	—	—
	Secondary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
III	Primary	2,375	(88.3%)	2,358	(86.7%)	303	(11.3%)	354	(13.0%)	13	(0.5%)	8	(0.3%)
	Secondary	166	(94.3%)	124	(86.1%)	10	(5.7%)	19	(13.2%)	—	—	1	(0.7%)
IV	Primary	1,360	(89.0%)	1,512	(90.7%)	161	(10.5%)	152	(9.1%)	7	(0.5%)	4	(0.2%)
	Secondary	1,146	(89.5%)	505	(96.0%)	132	(10.3%)	21	(4.0%)	3	(0.2%)	—	—
V	Primary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Secondary	366	(96.3%)	214	(97.3%)	14	(3.7%)	6	(2.7%)	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	Primary	7,291	(87.7%)	7,119	(86.4%)	969	(11.7%)	1,064	(12.9%)	58	(0.7%)	56	(0.7%)
	Secondary	1,723	(91.4%)	925	(94.0%)	158	(8.4%)	56	(5.7%)	4	(0.2%)	3	(0.3%)

Defects Discovered at Routine Medical Inspection

TABLE E 8

Defect			Type of School	Defective for Treatment	Per 1,000	Defective for Observation	Per 1,000
Skin			Primary ..	98	5.9	188	11.3
			Secondary ..	16	5.6	61	21.3
			Total ..	114	5.9	249	12.8
Eyes	(a)	Vision	Primary ..	1,873	113.1	3,421	206.6
			Secondary ..	302	105.3	598	208.4
			Total ..	2,175	112.0	4,019	206.9
	(b)	squint	Primary ..	302	18.2	490	29.6
			Secondary ..	20	7.0	49	17.1
			Total ..	322	16.6	539	27.7
	(c)	other	Primary ..	47	2.8	133	8.0
			Secondary ..	6	2.1	20	7.0
			Total ..	53	2.7	153	7.9
Ears	(a)	hearing	Primary ..	58	3.5	111	6.7
			Secondary ..	4	1.4	23	8.0
			Total ..	62	3.2	134	6.9
	(b)	otitis media	Primary ..	45	2.7	134	8.1
			Secondary ..	5	1.7	13	4.5
			Total ..	50	2.6	147	7.6
	(c)	other	Primary ..	52	3.1	46	2.8
			Secondary ..	14	4.9	11	3.8
			Total ..	66	3.4	57	2.9
Nose and Throat			Primary ..	393	23.7	1,832	110.6
			Secondary ..	19	6.6	136	47.4
			Total ..	412	21.1	1,968	101.3
Speech			Primary ..	71	4.3	199	12.0
			Secondary ..	5	1.7	10	3.5
			Total ..	76	3.9	209	10.8
Cervical glands			Primary ..	25	1.5	165	10.0
			Secondary ..	1	.3	25	8.7
			Total ..	26	1.3	190	9.8
Heart and circulation			Primary ..	80	4.8	273	16.5
			Secondary ..	4	1.4	37	12.9
			Total ..	84	4.3	310	16.0
Lungs	(a)		Primary ..	239	14.4	565	34.1
			Secondary ..	17	5.9	55	19.2
			Total ..	256	13.2	620	31.9
	(b)	pulmonary tuberculosis	Primary ..	—	—	21	1.3
			Secondary ..	1	.3	2	.7
			Total ..	1	.1	23	1.2
Development			Primary ..	9	.5	39	2.3
			Secondary ..	1	.3	11	3.8
			Total ..	10	.5	50	2.6
Orthopaedic	(a)	posture	Primary ..	146	8.8	53	3.2
			Secondary ..	20	7.0	6	2.1
			Total ..	166	8.5	59	3.0
	(b)	feet	Primary ..	215	13.0	181	10.9
			Secondary ..	77	26.8	58	20.2
			Total ..	292	15.0	239	12.3
	(c)	other	Primary ..	33	2.0	72	4.3
			Secondary ..	5	1.7	20	7.0
			Total ..	38	1.9	92	4.7

TABLE E 8 (*continued*)

Defect	Type of School	Defective for Treatment	Per 1,000	Defective for Observation	Per 1,000
Nervous System (a) epilepsy	Primary . .	5	.3	17	1.0
	Secondary . .	—	—	4	1.4
	Total . .	5	.2	21	1.1
(b) other	Primary . .	22	1.3	38	2.3
	Secondary . .	—	—	6	2.1
	Total . .	22	1.1	44	2.3
Psychological (a) development	Primary . .	16	1.0	115	6.9
	Secondary . .	—	—	—	—
	Total . .	16	.8	115	5.9
(b) stability	Primary . .	17	1.0	34	2.0
	Secondary . .	—	—	1	.3
	Total . .	17	.9	35	1.8
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary	Primary . .	—	—	5	.3
	Secondary . .	—	—	1	.3
	Total . .	—	—	6	.3
Other defects	Primary . .	277	16.7	407	24.6
	Secondary . .	12	4.2	80	27.9
	Total . .	289	14.9	487	25.1

The numbers of children examined were:—Primary 16,557; Secondary 2,869; Total 19,462.

The visual acuity could not be accurately assessed in 521 primary and 16 secondary schoolchildren; for "Eyes (a) vision", therefore, the numbers examined were:—Primary 16,036; Secondary 2,869; Total 18,905.

Visual Acuity

TABLE E 9

(a) Primary schoolchildren without glasses

		Left Eye								Right Eye
	Visual Acuity	6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60	<6/60	Totals
Right Eye	6/6	11,447	482	154	77	45	55	23	5	12,288
	6/9	341	1,187	166	55	32	17	6	5	1,809
	6/12	124	165	435	73	27	19	3	3	849
	6/18	60	53	81	102	41	13	6	2	458
	6/24	44	35	45	47	98	16	2	2	289
	6/36	44	19	19	19	31	92	4	2	230
	6/36	10	10	7	2	2	11	41	—	83
	<6/60	3	3	1	2	—	—	1	20	30
Left Eye	Totals	12,073	1,954	908	477	276	223	86	39	16,036

(b) Primary schoolchildren with glasses

		Left Eye								Right Eye
	Visual Acuity	6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60	<6/60	Totals
Right Eye	6/6	354	80	47	22	9	14	3	2	531
	6/9	65	132	36	14	5	5	4	1	262
	6/12	38	39	52	15	3	2	2	—	151
	6/18	20	7	12	31	8	—	1	1	80
	6/24	9	6	10	6	14	2	—	—	47
	6/36	5	3	3	3	1	7	—	—	22
	6/60	3	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	9
	<6/60	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	5
Left Eye	Totals	495	269	165	91	41	30	11	5	1,107

TABLE E 9 *(continued)*

(c) Secondary schoolchildren without glasses

		Left Eye								Right Eye
	Visual Acuity	6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60	<6/60	Totals
Right Eye	6/6	2,006	65	23	20	10	8	8	2	2,142
	6/9	74	122	20	7	9	7	2	1	242
	6/12	22	26	48	17	8	4	1	2	128
	6/18	10	15	13	34	11	2	2	—	87
	6/24	13	8	4	17	37	5	1	1	86
	6/36	8	4	5	9	14	45	12	—	97
	6/60	8	—	3	4	2	12	28	2	59
	<6/60	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	11	12
Left Eye	Totals	2,141	240	116	108	91	84	54	19	2,853

(d) Secondary schoolchildren with glasses

		Left Eye								Right Eye
	Visual Acuity	6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60	<6/60	Totals
Right Eye	6/6	142	23	6	11	2	2	3	1	190
	6/9	24	45	10	5	1	—	1	—	86
	6/12	8	16	12	3	1	—	—	—	40
	6/18	5	5	9	7	3	1	—	—	30
	6/24	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	4
	6/36	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	4
	6/60	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
	<6/60	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Left Eye	Totals	181	89	38	27	11	6	4	1	357

Colour Vision

TABLE E 10

Colour Vision	Type of School	Boys	Girls	Total
Normal	Primary	1,375 (90.7%)	1,607 (97.7%)	2,982 (94.3%)
Defective—safe		73 (4.8%)	35 (2.1%)	108 (3.4%)
Defective—unsafe		68 (4.5%)	3 (0.2%)	71 (2.3%)
Total		1,516 (100.0%)	1,645 (100.0%)	3,161 (100.0%)
Normal	Secondary	884 (93.5%)	386 (95.5%)	1,270 (94.0%)
Defective—safe		23 (2.4%)	17 (4.2%)	40 (3.0%)
Defective—unsafe		39 (4.1%)	1 (0.3%)	40 (3.0%)
Total		946 (100.0%)	404 (100.0%)	1,350 (100.0%)
Normal	All Schools	2,259 (91.8%)	1,993 (97.3%)	4,252 (94.2%)
Defective—safe		96 (3.9%)	52 (2.5%)	148 (3.3%)
Defective—unsafe		107 (4.3%)	4 (0.2%)	111 (2.5%)
Total		2,462 (100.0%)	2,049 (100.0%)	4,511 (100.0%)

Tuberculin Tests

TABLE E 11

Age	Number of children available	Offered* tuberculin test	Refused	Tested	Negative	Positive
4	359	235	8 (3.4%)	227	221 (97.4%)	6 (2.6%)
5	4,500	3,182	209 (6.6%)	2,973	2,861 (96.2%)	112 (3.8%)
6	2,576	1,937	133 (6.9%)	1,804	1,724 (95.6%)	80 (4.4%)
7	562	400	25 (6.3%)	375	352 (93.9%)	23 (6.1%)
8	124	98	6 (6.1%)	92	83 (90.2%)	9 (9.8%)
9	1,334	1,006	106 (10.5%)	900	805 (89.4%)	95 (10.6%)
10	3,552	2,621	260 (9.9%)	2,361	2,058 (87.2%)	303 (12.8%)
11	1,141	597	72 (12.1%)	525	439 (83.6%)	86 (16.4%)
12	2,000	768	109 (14.2%)	659	498 (75.6%)	161 (24.4%)
13	2,315	1,416	171 (12.1%)	1,245	943 (75.7%)	302 (24.3%)
14	363	213	22 (10.3%)	191	150 (78.5%)	41 (21.5%)
15	280	134	15 (11.2%)	119	75 (63.0%)	44 (37.0%)
16	302	187	18 (9.6%)	169	112 (66.3%)	57 (33.7%)
17	12	7	2 (28.6%)	5	3 (60.0%)	2 (40.0%)
18	5	3	2 (66.7%)	1	—	1 (100 %)
19	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	19,426	12,804	1,158 (9.0%)	11,646	10,324 (88.6%)	1,322 (11.4%)

* The difference between this figure and the number available is accounted for largely by children known to have had B.C.G. vaccination, but includes some who had skin disease or other ailment making tuberculin testing undesirable.

TABLE E 12

History of Infectious Diseases

Primary Schools

Age Group	Measles		German Measles		Chickenpox		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Mumps		Whooping Cough		Chorea		Rheumatic Fever	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Entrants	72.8%	74.6%	7.9%	8.2%	32.8%	34.5%	4.8%	5.3%	0.9%	1.5%	22.3%	20.7%	46.8%	51.5%	0.02%	0.03%	0.2%	0.2%
II	40.0%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.0%	—	—	—	—	—
III	61.1%	51.8%	6.1%	5.5%	34.8%	29.4%	7.0%	7.0%	0.6%	0.2%	26.6%	22.7%	41.0%	36.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.6%	1.0%
IV	48.8%	51.2%	3.9%	4.1%	25.0%	27.5%	5.7%	6.2%	0.6%	0.2%	21.9%	23.0%	33.5%	36.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.7%	1.3%
V	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	64.6%	62.3%	6.6%	6.5%	32.0%	31.4%	5.6%	6.0%	0.7%	0.8%	23.6%	21.8%	42.5%	43.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.7%
	63.5%		6.5%		31.7%		5.8%		0.8%		22.7%		42.9%		0.1%		0.5%	

Secondary Schools

Age Group	Measles		German Measles		Chickenpox		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Mumps		Whooping Cough		Chorea		Rheumatic Fever	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Entrants	66.7%	55.3%	10.4%	2.1%	43.8%	29.8%	—	2.1%	—	—	14.6%	11.7%	22.9%	35.1%	—	—	—	—
II	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
III	77.8%	73.6%	15.3%	2.8%	60.2%	50.7%	10.2%	4.9%	—	—	38.1%	36.1%	41.5%	38.9%	—	—	—	0.7%
IV	69.3%	78.5%	3.1%	11.4%	37.4%	57.4%	10.3%	12.9%	0.7%	0.2%	33.5%	37.3%	48.0%	55.9%	—	0.4%	1.5%	0.8%
V	70.5%	71.8%	1.6%	2.7%	44.5%	49.6%	12.6%	9.6%	0.3%	0.5%	34.2%	31.8%	46.8%	55.5%	—	—	0.8%	0.9%
Totals	70.3%	74.1%	4.1%	7.3%	41.1%	52.0%	10.5%	10.0%	0.5%	0.2%	33.6%	33.4%	46.5%	51.3%	—	0.2%	1.2%	0.7%
	71.6%		5.2%		44.9%		10.3%		0.4%		33.5%		48.2%		0.1%		1.0%	

TABLE E 13

Action to be Taken as a Result of Routine Medical Inspection

Primary Schools

Age Group	Home Visits		To Family Doctor		To School Clinic		To Eye Specialist		To E.N.T. Specialist		To Hospital		To N.I.T.A.		To Physio-therapist		To Speech Therapist		To Audio-metrist		Other Action	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Entrants	203	199	45	33	326	308	360	370	62	53	31	24	—	2	38	44	20	9	9	4	22	22
II	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
III	161	116	9	11	167	128	311	331	26	13	10	22	2	—	57	94	5	5	3	2	7	8
IV	98	116	5	10	72	74	181	254	12	12	6	5	—	—	24	39	5	2	2	3	4	6
V	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	464	431	59	54	565	510	854	956	100	78	47	51	2	2	119	177	30	16	14	9	33	37
	895		113		1,075		1,810		178		98		4		296		46		23		70	

Secondary Schools

Age Group	Home Visits		To Family Doctor		To School Clinic		To Eye Specialist		To E.N.T. Specialist		To Hospital		To N.I.T.A.		To Physio-therapist		To Speech Therapist		To Audio-metrist		Other Action	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Entrants	2	2	—	1	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
II	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
III	2	1	1	6	6	4	11	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	4
IV	9	20	8	6	34	11	164	52	8	1	3	—	—	1	11	11	2	—	—	—	23	15
V	—	1	9	4	2	3	32	14	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	2	12
Totals	13	24	18	17	43	20	207	75	9	3	4	1	—	1	13	14	3	1	1	—	26	33
	37		35		63		282		12		5		1		27		4		1		59	

Re-examinations

TABLE E 14

Defects for which re-examined	Primary Schools			Secondary Schools		
	For Treatment	For Observation	Cured	For Treatment	For Observation	Cured
Skin	14	39	54	11	25	13
Eyes (a) vision	1,778	2,700	1,081	156	560	77
(b) squint	352	701	50	17	44	6
(c) other	13	17	33	1	2	5
Ears (a) hearing	63	70	53	1	5	1
(b) otitis media	24	42	80	—	3	8
(c) other	18	21	26	1	—	8
Nose and throat	417	1,255	1,565	7	35	82
Speech	112	211	146	2	4	3
Cervical glands	20	98	61	—	1	2
Heart and circulation	23	174	97	—	18	11
Lungs (a)	104	229	406	—	28	27
(b) pulmonary tuberculosis	1	9	1	—	1	—
Development	13	17	18	—	—	—
Orthopaedic (a) posture	53	56	70	2	3	5
(b) feet	64	124	159	13	34	40
(c) other	14	55	24	—	3	2
Nervous system (a) epilepsy	4	17	4	—	5	1
(b) other	14	20	20	—	1	—
Psychological (a) development	24	85	7	—	1	—
(b) stability	4	42	14	—	1	—
Tuberculosis—non-pulmonary	1	8	—	—	—	—
Other defects	206	414	479	3	6	51
Totals	3,336	6,404	4,448	214	780	342
	14,188			1,336		
	15,524*					

* 15,524 defects in 12,147 children (Primary 10,919; Secondary 1,228).

TABLE E 15

Reason for examination	Number of examinations carried out	Per cent
Skin	2,534	8.2
Eyes (a) vision	1,018	3.3
(b) squint	85	.3
(c) other	155	.5
Ears (a) hearing	207	.7
(b) otitis media	212	.7
(c) other	104	.3
Nose and throat	830	2.7
Speech	123	.4
Cervical glands	35	.1
Heart and circulation	210	.7
Lungs (a)	648	2.1
(b) pulmonary tuberculosis	23	.1
Development	136	.4
Orthopaedic (a) posture	39	.1
(b) feet	109	.3
(c) other	81	.3
Nervous system (a) epilepsy	30	.1
(b) other	129	.4
Psychological (a) development	705	2.3
(b) stability	122	.4
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	9	.1
Other defects	1,308	4.2
B.C.G. vaccination	4,320	14.0
Tuberculin skin test	9,648	31.2
Pre-anaesthetic examination	8,113	26.2
Total	30,933	100.0

TABLE E 16

Handicap	At Special Day School		At Special Residential School		At Normal School		At No School		At Home Tuition		Totals	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Blind	—	—	6	5	—	1	1	4	—	—	7	10
Partially Sighted ..	2	3	4	4	12	13	3	2	—	1	21	23
Deaf	—	—	17	15	—	—	1	3	—	—	18	18
Partially Deaf ..	7	5	13	16	30	38	1	—	5	8	56	67
Delicate	56	60	2	—	5	6	15	11	3	3	81	80
Educationally Subnormal	332	152	6	7	438	320	10	14	3	7	789	500
Epileptic	13	5	—	3	33	31	7	4	1	3	54	46
Maladjusted ..	5	4	2	1	45	23	15	3	1	2	68	33
Physically Handicapped	45	42	6	1	30	21	15	13	19	25	115	102
Speech Defect ..	19	15	—	2	382	371	10	4	1	—	412	392
Totals ..	479	286	56	54	975	824	78	58	33	49	1,621	1,271
	765		110		1,799		136		82		2,892*	

*2,892 handicaps in 2,661 pupils (1,482 boys, 1,179 girls). Of these, 167 children have 2 handicaps, 26 have 3 handicaps, and 4 have 4 handicaps.

Graymount Open-Air School

TABLE E 17

Reasons for Admission	Boys	Girls	Total
Anaemia	1	—	1
Asthma	3	2	5
Bronchiectasis	3	2	5
Bronchitis	2	—	2
Cerebral palsy	2	—	2
Chorea	–	3	3
Debility	5	6	11
Heart lesion	2	—	2
Late effects of poliomyelitis	1	1	2
Late effects of primary tuberculous complex	3	2	5
Late effects of tuberculosis of bone	—	3	3
Lobectomy	—	1	1
Malnutrition	2	—	2
Multiple deformities	—	1	1
Muscular dystrophy	2	—	2
Nephritis	—	1	1
Nervousness	—	1	1
Number admitted during 1956	26	23	49
Number discharged during 1956	25	26	51
Average duration of stay in months	29	30	29

Miscellaneous

TABLE E 18

Ultra violet light treatments	4,760	
Physiotherapy:		
Children treated	1,086	
Total attendances	13,046	
Cases discharged	305	
Waiting list	92	
Speech Therapy:		
Total attendances	1,413	
Audiometry:		
Children group tested at school	354	
Children individually tested	123	
Children referred to specialist	24	
Cleanliness:		
Children inspected	162,318	
Children found to have nits	7,598	(4.7%)
Children found to have vermin	2,519	(1.6%)
B.C.G. Vaccinations:	4,316	
Children given tuberculin test	11,646	
Children showing positive reaction	1,322	(11.4%)
Children showing negative reaction	10,324	(88.6%)
Nurses' Home Visits	7,763	
Nurses' School Visits	1,338	
Medical Officers' Visits	160	

REPORT OF THE CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1956

Report covering the work of the Dental Section during the year 1956. A summarised statistical report in the form required by the Ministry of Health and Local Government is appended.

Dental Inspection in Schools

During the year, all schools, for which the Health Authority is dentally responsible, were visited by the inspecting staff. Of the 75,891 children notified, none refused to be examined, and a total of 67,627 attended on the days of inspection. There was an absentee figure of 10.9%, this percentage being approximate to the normal school attendance absenteeism. To effect the survey, 574 visits to schools were required. An average of 119 children were inspected per session. In addition to the above dental inspections for which the Health Authority is directly responsible, a further total of 2,037 inspections, in accordance with the requirement of the Authority, were duly carried out by schools outside the scheme, thereby making an over all total of 69,664 children officially inspected during the year.

Dental Condition of Children Inspected

Children found to be dentally defective on inspection totalled 48,308 or 71.43% of those inspected. In the case of non-participating schools a further 1,312 were recorded, making a dental defect total of 49,620 children in respect of City schools surveyed. Reference to statistical table "F 3", shows the varying percentage of defect in relation to age, and emphasises the prime importance of treatment for the younger age groups. Although the over all percentage of defect shows a slight fall, namely 1.5% over the previous year and, in itself, cannot be used as an analytical factor in assessing the situation, a reference back over the past ten years is of interest. In 1946, the defect percentage was 83.1%. The average per year over the past ten years was 76.8%. The last three years show a further drop to an average of 72.1%. It would therefore seem reasonable to infer, that regular dental inspection, and the co-operation of parents in securing conservation for the children, are gradually if slowly, adding up to a higher standard of dental fitness in the school child.

Post Inspection Notification and Parents' Response

During the year, notifications of dental defect in respect of 43,900 children were issued to the parents concerned. Of this total 78% or 34,234 agreed to have treatment, 45.9% choosing to have this done by a dentist privately, and 54% or 18,503 asking for this to be carried out at the Authority's dental clinics. Appointments were duly issued by the Service for the latter category. With regard to those agreeing to attend a dentist privately, no definite figures can be furnished in regard to the percentage who actually fulfil this intention, but there is good reason to believe that a much greater number of children are receiving treatment by dental surgeons in private practice. The remaining 22% of children consisting of 14.7% who refuse treatment outright, and 7.3% who do not offer any response to notification at all, form a category which heightens the yearly ascertained percentage of dental defect. This category presumably only seek treatment in painful emergency, and constitute the group most in need of dental health education.

Attendances at City Clinics

A total of 15,122 individuals, or 81.7% of those who made application, attended the Authority's clinics during the year. Between them these children made 51,752 attendances, an average of 3.4 visits per child. The percentages of new and previous patients were respectively 9.15% and 90.85% of the total attendance. The total number of previously attending patients was 47,015.

Dental Treatment in Clinics

All normal branches of treatment were provided during the year, with however a marked reduction in the total treatments accomplished, this due in part to the section having to function on a depleted staff and clinic basis throughout the year. Conservation treatments, as in previous years, constituted the main activity. These totalled 30,524 or 53.86% of the total treatments provided. Extractions at 14,662 or 25.87% of total treatments maintained a desirable inverse relationship to conservations. Subsidiary and other treatments totalled 2,860, and 8,113 general anaesthetics were administered. Each child treated received an average of 5.1 treatments, and check inspections in clinics averaged 2.9 per child. Each dental officer was responsible for an average of 3,891 patients, and provided comprehensive treatment for an average of 835.5 individuals. Clinical check inspections numbered 21,286, and treatments in all categories totalled 56,670.

General Remarks

It is necessary to elaborate somewhat on the reference which has been made in the previous paragraph to the reduced capacity of the Service during the year. Loss in use of our dental premises at Crumlin Road, by fire, towards the end of 1955, and the expedients, which had to be adopted at that time, were duly outlined in last year's report. This arrangement has necessarily continued throughout 1956, and is a contributory factor to the fall in this year's accomplishment. The compulsory redistribution of patients from one clinic area to another, in order to equalise numbers according to the available situation of staff, is an arrangement neither logical nor convenient to parent and patient, and, I believe, has resulted in a large number of regularly attending patients transferring to a more conveniently situated private source of treatment. The previously existing problem of inadequacy of dental clinics in size, situation and amenities has therefore received a further accentuation, offset, up to the moment, by no tangible amelioration. The urgency of these requirements has been the subject of dental report over several past years. The only project within reasonable sight is that of a new clinic at Cupar Street. This will however require a further two years to complete. It was first proposed in 1943, and was approved in principle by the Ministry of Health and Local Government as far back as 1945. No site has yet been acquired for the approved-in-principle new clinic for South Belfast. This project is of the utmost key importance in the correct redistribution of clinic areas in the City, and logically should be proceeding contemporaneously with the projects of Cupar Street and Lincoln Avenue. That the dental service, which has been assiduously built up over many years, is now in danger of regression is a situation which must be viewed with considerable alarm. This fact should stimulate the appeal that all these projects be given an intensified priority of action.

Statistical tables covering all aspects of the Dental Service are appended.

A. S. IRVING, L.D.S., R.C.S., Edin.,
Chief Dental Officer.

School Dental Inspection

TABLE F 1

SCHOOL DENTAL INSPECTION	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
SCHOOLS VISITED:				
Primary	58	50	40	148
Intermediate	1	7	3	11
Technical, Preparatory, and Grammar . .	12	6	5	23
Nursery and Nursery Centre	2	4	2	8
Special	—	3	1	4
TOTAL Visits	215	203	156	574
,, Inspection Sessions	214	200	156	570
,, Inspected per Session (Average) . .	118	120	117	119
TOTAL SCHOOLS VISITED	**73**	**70**	**51**	**194**
,, ,, ,, (per cent)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION:				
Refusing Inspection	—	—	—	—
Absent from Inspection	2,823	3,253	2,188	8,264
,, ,, ,, (per cent) . .	(10.0)	(11.9)	(10.7)	(10.9)
TOTAL CHILDREN NOTIFIED . .	**28,162**	**27,219**	**20,510**	**75,891**
,, ,, ,, (per cent of Rolls)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)
CHILDREN INSPECTED:				
Primary	18,965	17,901	14,660	51,526
Intermediate	661	3,763	1,666	6,090
Technical, Preparatory, and Grammar . .	5,642	1,899	1,756	9,297
Nursery School and Centre	71	107	78	256
Special School	—	296	162	458
TOTAL Boys Inspected	13,457	12,825	9,389	35,671
,, Girls Inspected	11,882	11,141	8,933	31,956
TOTAL CHILDREN INSPECTED . .	**25,339**	**23,966**	**18,322**	**67,627**
,, ,, ,, (per cent of Rolls)	(90.04)	(88.78)	(90.11)	(89.61)
CHILDREN DEFECTIVE:				
Primary	14,501	14,210	10,611	39,322
,, (per cent Inspected)	(76.46)	(79.38)	(72.38)	(76.32)
Intermediate	447	2,686	1,172	4,305
,, (per cent Inspected) . .	(67.62)	(71.38)	(70.35)	(70.69)
Technical, Preparatory, and Grammar . .	2,395	1,119	750	4,264
,, ,, (per cent Inspected)	(42.45)	(58.93)	(42.71)	(45.86)
Nursery School and Centre	30	60	27	117
,, ,, ,, ,, (per cent Inspected)	(42.25)	(56.07)	(34.62)	(45.70)
Special School	—	199	101	300
,, ,, (per cent Inspected) . .	—	(67.23)	(62.35)	(65.50)
TOTAL Boys Defective	9,078	9,853	6,446	25,377
,, ,, ,, (per cent Inspected)	(67.46)	(76.83)	(68.65)	(71.14)
TOTAL Girls Defective	8,295	8,421	6,215	22,931
,, ,, ,, (per cent Inspected)	(69.81)	(75.59)	(69.57)	(71.76)
TOTAL CHILDREN DEFECTIVE . .	**17,373**	**18,274**	**12,661**	**48,308**
,, ,, (per cent Inspected) . .	(68.86)	(76.25)	(69.10)	(71.43)

Classification of Dental Defects

TABLE F 2

CLASSIFICATION		Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
INDIVIDUALS:					
Children with	Saveable Teeth	12,305	13,070	8,829	34,204
	Unsaveable Teeth	1,057	1,017	869	2,943
	Saveable and Unsaveable Teeth	3,775	4,011	2,795	10,581
	Irregularity of Dentition . .	522	573	549	1,644
	Other Dental and Oral Defects . .	628	662	677	1,967
TEETH:					
Temporary Dentition	Sound	132,371	124,912	106,624	363,907
	Saveable . .	20,266	23,966	14,740	58,972
	Unsaveable . .	7,663	6,570	4,690	18,923
Permanent Dentition	Sound	377,899	341,530	256,289	975,718
	Saveable . .	22,152	23,071	16,431	61,654
	Unsaveable . .	2,412	3,148	2,172	7,732
TOTAL Teeth	Saveable . .	**42,418**	**47,037**	**31,171**	**120,626**
,, ,,	Unsaveable . .	**10,075**	**9,718**	**6,862**	**26,655**
,, ,,	Examined . .	**562,763**	**523,197**	**400,946**	**1,486,906**

Classification of Defectives

TABLE F 3

AGE GROUPS	BOYS			GIRLS		
	Inspected	Defective	Per cent Defective	Inspected	Defective	Per cent Defective
3	76	25	32.89	73	26	35.62
4	264	174	65.91	300	186	62.00
5	2,242	1,742	77.70	2,120	1,674	78.96
6	3,206	2,595	80.94	3,130	2,522	80.58
7	3,469	2,769	79.82	3,244	2,670	82.30
8	3,593	2,834	78.88	3,464	2,739	79.07
9	3,755	2,846	75.79	3,596	2,726	75.81
10	3,813	2,708	71.02	3,406	2,438	71.58
11	3,870	2,578	66.61	3,447	2,272	65.91
12	3,971	2,606	65.63	3,519	2,279	64.76
13	3,704	2,429	65.58	3,342	2,194	65.65
14	1,955	1,212	61.99	1,358	805	59.28
15	883	474	53.68	470	229	48.72
16	523	228	43.59	311	117	37.62
17	278	122	43.88	162	50	30.86
18	56	29	51.79	11	4	36.36
19	13	6	46.15	3	—	—
TOTALS ..	**35,671**	**25,377**	**71.14**	**31,956**	**22,931**	**71.76**

Post-Inspection Notification and Parents' Response

TABLE F 4

ITEMS	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
NOTIFIED AS DEFECTIVE:				
Total Notified	**15,841**	**16,311**	**11,748**	**43,900**
PARENTS' RESPONSE:				
Refusing Treatment	2,282	2,614	1,576	6,472
,, ,, (per cent)	(14.4)	(16.0)	(13.4)	(14.7)
No response	864	1,858	472	3,194
,, ,, (per cent)	(5.5)	(11.4)	(4.0)	(7.3)
Consenting to Treatment (Total)	**12,695**	**11,839**	**9,700**	**34,234**
,, ,, ,, (per cent notified)	(80.1)	(72.6)	(82.6)	(78.0)
,, ,, ,, By own Dentist	6,125	5,207	4,399	15,731
,, ,, ,, ,, (per cent)	(48.2)	(43.9)	(45.3)	(45.9)
,, ,, ,, **at City Clinics**	**6,570**	**6,632**	**5,301**	**18,503**
,, ,, ,, ,, (per cent)	(51.7)	(56.0)	(54.6)	(54.0)
TREATMENT ARRANGED:				
Appointments—				
Issued	6,570	6,632	5,301	18,503
,, Per cent Applications	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)

Attendances at City Clinics

TABLE F 5

CLINIC ATTENDANCES	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
INDIVIDUALS:				
Attending for Inspection	1,829	877	1,403	4,109
,, ,, Treatment	3,091	2,446	2,320	7,857
,, ,, Inspection and Treatment	322	2,335	499	3,156
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	**5,242**	**5,658**	**4,222**	**15,122**
PATIENTS:				
New Patients	1,577	2,007	1,153	4,737
Previous Patients	14,596	15,379	17,040	47,015
TOTAL PATIENTS	**16,173**	**17,386**	**18,193**	**51,752**

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis

TABLE F 6

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
PRIMARY SCHOOLS:—Area 1				
All Saint's Junior	711	44	217	214
Argyle Senior	667	104	249	300
Ashmore Street Junior	251	77	151	239
Ballymurphy	208	31	61	92
Blythe Street Junior	251	41	123	134
Botanic Senior	507	71	382	342
Broadway Junior	246	50	133	144
Brown Street	468	99	227	307
Charter's Memorial	230	62	153	209
Donegall Road Junior	406	119	446	428
Earl Street Girls	145	15	28	30
Earl Street Infants'	156	37	69	106
Fane Street Senior	814	132	543	501
Linfield Junior	275	64	176	244
Mabel Street Junior	327	115	303	373
Magdalene	137	23	131	148
Malone	361	69	242	239
Mariners'	211	52	118	138
Mayo Street	374	84	281	315
McQuiston	270	41	177	185
Ormeau Road Junior	204	22	131	122
Percy Street	147	75	209	285
Porter's Senior	308	40	207	200
Queen Victoria	306	74	188	199
St. Anthony's Boys'	160	48	125	171
St. Anthony's Girls'	247	69	170	226
St. Brendan's	367	128	277	350
St. Bride's	290	78	280	310
St. Catherine's Convent	468	85	271	282
St. Colmcille's	41	7	13	14
St. Comgall's Boys'	507	88	217	241
St. Comgall's Girls'	519	86	221	265
St. Finian's	508	126	345	478
St. Gall's	554	167	422	499
St. John's Boys'	355	45	141	150
St. John's Girls'	364	71	239	286
St. Joseph's Boys'	431	34	95	91
St. Joseph's Girls'	372	29	109	113
St. Kevin's Boys'	1,101	195	570	660
St. Kevin's Girls'	948	239	667	725
St. Mary's Christian Brothers'	428	96	244	289
St. Mary's Boys'	106	40	87	121
St. Mary's Girls'	158	35	79	101
St. Mary's	403	140	382	447
St. Patrick's	149	3	10	8
St. Paul's Boys'	577	130	384	379
St. Paul's Girls'	143	9	18	26
St. Peter's Boys'	310	39	75	92
St. Peter's Girls'	380	67	153	208
St. Saviour's	391	128	401	553
St. Simon's Junior	409	130	392	395
St. Vincent's	818	253	774	858
Sandy Row Junior	131	41	106	134
Springfield	529	173	618	655
Stranmillis	213	38	165	154
Taughmonagh	701	113	358	417
Ulsterville Junior	469	99	427	361
Workman	234	16	67	56
No School	—	8	17	30
TOTALS	**21,221**	**4,594**	**13,864**	**15,639**

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—*(continued)*

TABLE F 7

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
PRIMARY SCHOOLS:—Area 2				
Antrim Road	246	92	354	301
Ballygolan	413	110	347	403
Blenheim Junior	199	93	269	366
Carr's Glen	1,165	252	777	824
Convent	791	173	539	631
Crumlin Road Junior	327	49	145	174
Currie Junior	326	116	315	319
Duncairn Junior	178	71	167	192
Everton	801	144	541	698
Finiston	567	83	238	291
Forth River	617	113	489	563
Fortwilliam	137	47	152	143
Getty Junior	293	106	285	378
Grove Junior	725	280	828	862
Hemsworth Square Senior	654	96	296	397
Hillman	372	122	356	370
Holy Cross Boys'	843	132	313	437
Holy Cross Girls'	808	67	183	231
Holy Family Boys'	367	114	371	397
Holy Family Girls'	351	131	471	450
Jaffe	321	74	202	205
John White Junior	480	147	445	562
Lancaster Street	232	67	168	249
Lowwood Infants'	394	178	473	558
Lowwood Junior	417	84	303	314
Lynn Junior	224	42	121	161
Old Lodge Road	150	20	52	71
Perth Street	304	51	221	265
Riddel Memorial Junior	332	69	177	240
St. Colmban's Boys'	419	73	193	230
St. Colmban's Girls'	433	77	234	279
St. Joseph's Boys'	60	13	20	33
St. Malachy's Boys'	166	28	62	94
St. Mark's	214	61	194	248
St. Mary's Junior	491	119	391	502
St. Mary's Star of Sea Boys'	420	75	178	215
St. Mary's Star of Sea Girls'	408	85	197	250
St. Patrick's Christian Brothers'	516	132	422	465
St. Patrick's Boys' Junior	330	77	179	238
St. Patrick's Girls' Junior	350	98	214	270
St. Patrick's Girls' Senior	124	15	24	39
St. Vincent de Paul's Boys'	144	27	68	84
St. Vincent de Paul's Girls'	123	23	51	73
Seaview	736	236	806	823
Skegoniel	454	125	462	421
Star of Sea Boys'	168	75	169	197
Star of Sea Girls'	272	114	312	431
Wheatfield	576	144	478	631
Wolfhill	202	29	65	101
Woodvale Junior	417	129	440	506
No School	—	48	113	129
TOTALS	**20,057**	**4,926**	**14,870**	**17,311**

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—*(continued)*

TABLE F 8

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinics	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
PRIMARY SCHOOLS:—Area 3				
Avoniel Junior	624	141	532	768
Beechfield Junior	594	158	598	760
Belmont Junior	388	57	254	248
Belvoir Hall Junior	300	49	187	234
Elmgrove	932	239	1,121	1,173
Euston Street Senior	833	193	842	898
Greenwood House	143	51	214	210
Harding Memorial	735	247	1,070	954
Lagan Village	119	35	142	145
Megain Memorial Junior	462	99	273	366
Memel Street Junior	121	20	86	89
Mersey Street	793	81	329	436
Mountpottinger Infants'	139	59	265	253
Mountpottinger	366	67	291	257
Nazareth House	121	3	19	22
Nazareth Lodge	130	26	125	130
Nettlefield Junior	729	210	1,003	953
Orangefield	663	185	855	667
Ormeau Park	419	121	561	557
Ravenhill Road	235	38	192	186
Rosario Boys'	226	58	270	244
Rosario Girls'	209	69	326	340
Rosetta	652	180	865	730
Roslyn Street Junior	110	38	175	195
St. Anthony's Boys'	149	31	136	131
St. Anthony's Girls'	213	37	178	185
St. Colman's	331	30	182	260
St. Congall's Boys'	99	12	36	33
St. Congall's Girls'	127	5	36	45
St. Joseph's Boys'	158	19	118	110
St. Joseph's Girls'	118	15	99	99
St. Jude's	259	65	357	325
St. Malachy's Christian Brothers'	170	22	109	111
St. Malachy's Convent	505	103	361	434
St. Matthew's Boys'	457	103	259	341
St. Matthew's Girls'	532	164	419	519
Strand	637	168	672	761
Strandtown	1,134	219	901	775
Sydenham	454	243	754	888
Templemore Avenue	799	93	360	450
No School	—	29	99	83
TOTALS	**16,185**	**3,782**	**15,671**	**16,365**

Dental Clinic Attendances: —Schools' Analysis—(*continued*)

TABLE F 9

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS:				
Area 1				
Linfield	729	91	268	335
Area 2				
Edenderry	500	47	193	235
Glenwood	690	100	312	381
Graymount Girls'	477	47	200	192
Model Boys'	718	121	395	399
Model Girls'	726	105	394	387
Mountcollyer	667	59	206	228
St. Patrick's Boys'	419	69	152	180
Total	**4,197**	**548**	**1,852**	**2,002**
Area 3				
Ashfield Boys'	831	109	507	562
Ashfield Girls'	359	49	275	264
Park Parade	770	65	446	420
Total	**1,960**	**223**	**1,228**	**1,246**
TOTAL (All Areas)	**6,886**	**862**	**3,348**	**3,583**

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(*continued*)

TABLE F 10

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
TECHNICAL, PREPARATORY, and GRAMMAR:				
Area 1				
Ashleigh House	409	3	7	8
,, ,, (Ardeen)	57	2	9	4
Christian Brothers' Grammar	600	62	224	226
Grosvenor High	654	108	468	361
Methodist College	1,630	141	582	581
Princess Gardens	267	26	100	90
Richmond Lodge	356	5	33	28
Royal Academical Institution	986	72	339	347
,, ,, ,, (Inchmarlo)	244	10	30	13
Technical Intermediate	390	103	361	394
Victoria College	472	14	53	60
,, ,, (Drumglass House) ..	29	3	8	10
TOTAL	**6,094**	**549**	**2,214**	**2,122**
Area 2				
Christian Brothers' Technical	290	32	88	112
Royal Academy	760	31	165	147
,, ,, (Ben Madigan) ..	52	2	2	—
,, ,, (Wingfield)	159	4	18	13
,, ,, (Sinclair Memorial) ..	49	3	16	20
St. Malachy's College	720	5	33	38
TOTAL	**2,050**	**77**	**322**	**330**
Area 3				
Annadale Boys'	646	76	406	296
Ashfield Girls'	375	70	309	263
Bloomfield Collegiate	346	25	161	120
Cabin Hill	266	2	11	4
Methodist College (Downey House) ..	250	26	127	92
TOTAL	**1,883**	**199**	**1,014**	**775**
TOTAL (All Areas)	**10,027**	**825**	**3,550**	**3,227**

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(*continued*)

TABLE F 11

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
NURSERY SCHOOLS AND CENTRES:				
Area 1				
Arellian	47	3	5	7
Forth River *	—	1	2	1
Taughmonagh	51	4	10	16
Area 2				
Edenderry	48	8	39	53
Frederick Street	26	6	16	15
Glenbank	24	5	15	13
Jennymount *	—	2	8	10
Tudor Lodge	47	3	4	4
Area 3				
McArthur	49	5	12	12
Nazareth Lodge	42	2	2	2
TOTAL (All Areas)	**334**	**39**	**113**	**133**

* School closed.

Dental Clinic Attendances:—Schools' Analysis—(*continued*)

TABLE F 12

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
SPECIAL SCHOOLS:				
Area 1				
Blind, Deaf and Dumb	110	1	2	2
Area 2				
Balmoral Training *	—	39	145	186
Blind, Deaf and Dumb	—	—	—	—
Graymount	149	32	86	132
Mount Vernon	149	11	33	28
St. Aloysius's Boys'	138	—	—	—
Area 3				
Blind, Deaf and Dumb	—	—	—	—
Oakleigh	190	10	66	58
Victoria Homes	24	1	4	6
TOTAL (All Areas)	**760**	**94**	**336**	**412**

* Transferred.

Dental Clinic Attendances:—School Group Totals

TABLE F 13

School	Total on Rolls	Children Attending Clinic	Total Clinic Attendances	Total Treatments
Primary	57,463	13,302	44,405	49,315
Intermediate	6,886	862	3,348	3,583
Technical, Preparatory, and Grammar	10,027	825	3,550	3,227
Nursery and Nursery Centre	334	39	113	133
Special	760	94	336	412
TOTAL (All Areas and Schools)	**75,470**	**15,122**	**51,752**	**56,670**

Dental Treatment in Clinics

TABLE F 14

TREATMENTS	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Totals
Extractions:				
Temporary Dentition	3,360	4,332	3,868	11,560
Permanent Dentition	834	1,395	873	3,102
Total	**4,194**	**5,727**	**4,741**	**14,662**
,, (per cent of Treatments)	(23.23)	(28.55)	(25.55)	(25.87)
ANAESTHETICS:				
Local	31	200	78	309
General	2,342	3,197	2,574	8,113
Total	**2,373**	**3,397**	**2,652**	**8,422**
,, (per cent of Treatments)	(13.15)	(16.93)	(14.29)	(14.86)
FILLINGS:				
Temporary Dentition	1,822	2,576	2,494	6,892
Permanent Dentition	8,736	7,246	7,650	23,632
Total	**10,558**	**9,822**	**10,144**	**30,524**
,, (per cent of Treatments)	(58.49)	(48.96)	(54.66)	(53.86)
SPECIAL TREATMENTS:				
Orthodontic	—	—	—	—
X-Ray	75	45	82	202
Prosthetic	—	—	—	—
Total	**75**	**45**	**82**	**202**
,, (per cent of Treatments)	(0.41)	(0.23)	(0.44)	(0.36)
SUBSIDIARY TREATMENTS:				
Dressings (Tooth)	242	492	318	1,052
Scalings	42	55	48	145
Polishings	92	156	131	379
Other Operations	476	366	442	1,284
Total	**852**	**1,069**	**939**	**2,860**
,, (per cent of Treatments)	(4.72)	(5.33)	(5.06)	(5.05)
CLINICAL INSPECTIONS	6,325	6,865	8,096	21,286
TOTAL TREATMENTS	**18,052**	**20,060**	**18,558**	**56,670**

Analysis of Treatment Sessions

TABLE F 15

ITEMS	TOTALS
TREATMENT SESSIONS (Half-day):	
Extractions Anaesthetics	532
Fillings Subsidiary Treatments Clinical Inspections	5,019
Special Treatments	91
TOTAL TREATMENT SESSIONS	**5,642**

Dental Treatment Averages

TABLE F 16

ITEMS		AVERAGE
TREATMENT AVERAGE (Children):		
Extractions	(Per Child Treated)	1.3
Anaesthetics	(,, ,, ,,)	0.7
Fillings	(,, ,, ,,)	2.8
Subsidiary Treatments	(,, ,, ,,)	0.3
Special Treatments	(,, ,, ,,)	0.02
TOTAL TREATMENTS	**(Per Child Treated)**	**5.1**
CLINICAL INSPECTION:		
Check Inspections	(Per Child Inspected)	2.9
TREATMENT AVERAGE (Staff):		
Extractions	(Per Extraction Session)	27.6
,,	(Per Anaesthetic)	1.7
Anaesthetics	(Per Extraction Session)	15.8
Fillings	(Per Filling Session)	6.1
Subsidiary Treatments	(,, ,, ,,)	0.6
Special Treatments	(Per Special Treatment Session)	2.2
Clinical Inspection	(Per Treatment Session)	4.2
PATIENTS	**(Per Surgeon)**	**3,891**
INDIVIDUALS TREATED	**(per Surgeon)**	**835.5**

Staff Complement:—Clinic Accommodation

TABLE F 17

ITEMS			TOTALS
STAFF COMPLEMENT:			
Chief Dental Officer			1
Dental Officers	(Full-time)	Equivalent Full-time Total	13.3
,, ,,	(Sessional)		
Anaesthetists	(Sessional)		4
Dental Clinic Nurses	(Full-time)		1
Dental Attendants	(Full-time)	Administration	3
,, ,,	(Full-time)	Inspection	4
,, ,,	(Full-time)	Reception	4
,, ,,	(Full-time)	Surgical (Equivalent)	15.75
TOTAL DENTAL STAFF: Full-time Equivalent			42.05
CLINICS:			
Area 1.	(Dental Surgery accommodation for 4 Officers)		1
Area 2.	(Dental Surgery accommodation for 4 Officers)		2
Area 3.	(Dental Surgery accommodation for 5 Officers)		1
TOTAL DENTAL CLINICS			4

Comparative Dental Totals:—1954—1955—1956

TABLE F 18

ITEMS	1954	1955	1956	1956 compared 1955
SCHOOL DENTAL INSPECTION:				(per cent)
Schools visited	195	197	194	(—) 1.5
Visits	575	578	574	(—) 0.7
Inspection Sessions	573	574	570	(—) 1.0
Notified for Inspection	74,383	76,311	75,891	(—) 0.5
Refusing Inspection	—	—	—	—
Absent from inspection (per cent)	(10.9)	(12.8)	(10.9)	(—) 1.9
Inspected	**66,253**	**66,554**	**67,627**	(+) 1.6
Defective	**47,833**	**48,494**	**48,308**	(—) 0.4
Defective (per cent)	(72.2)	(72.9)	(71.4)	(—) 1.5
POST-INSPECTION NOTIFICATION:				
Notified as Defective	39,461	43,230	43,900	(+) 1.5
,, ,, ,, (per cent)	(82.5)	(89.1)	(90.9)	(+) 1.8
RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION:				
No Response (per cent)	(7.2)	(8.9)	(7.3)	(—) 1.6
Refusing Treatment (per cent)	(12.0)	(12.2)	(14.7)	(+) 2.5
Consenting to Treatment:—				
Total (per cent)	**(80.7)**	**(78.9)**	**(78.0)**	(—) 0.9)
By own Dentist (per cent)	(32.1)	(39.9)	(45.9)	(+) 6.0
At Clinics (per cent)	**(67.9)**	**(60.1)**	**(54.0)**	(—) 6.1
TREATMENT ARRANGED:				
Appointments—				
Issued (Total)	21,632	20,499	18,503	(—) 9.7
Per cent Clinic Applications	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	—
Per cent Defectives Inspected	(45.2)	(42.3)	(38.3)	(—) 4.0
ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS:				
New Patients (per cent)	(12.5)	(10.8)	(9.15)	(—) 1.6
Previous Patients (per cent)	(87.5)	(89.2)	(90.9)	(+) 1.7
Total Patients	**67,811**	**59,863**	**51,752**	(—) 13.5
Individuals	**20,706**	**19,787**	**15,122**	(—) 23.6
,, (per cent of Roll Defectives) ..	(38.4)	(35.6)	(28.1)	(—) 7.5
TREATMENTS:				
Extractions—				
Temporary Dentition	17,077	13,885	11,560	(—) 16.7
Permanent Dentition	3,929	3,708	3,102	(—) 16.3
Total	**21,006**	**17,593**	**14,662**	(—) 16.6
Anaesthetics—				
Local	520	353	309	(—) 12.5
General	11,462	9,628	8,113	(—) 15.7
Total	**11,982**	**9,981**	**8,422**	(—) 15.6
Fillings—				
Temporary Dentition	7,459	7,401	6,892	(—) 6.9
Permanent Dentition	29,564	25,962	23,632	(—) 8.9
Total	**37,023**	**33,363**	**30,524**	(—) 8.5
Special Treatments—				
Orthodontic	—	—	—	—
X-Ray	329	204	202	(—) 1.0
Prosthetic	—	—	—	—
Dressings (Tooth)	1,654	1,419	1,052	(—) 25.8
Scalings	199	136	145	(+) 6.2
Polishings	533	345	379	(+) 8.9
Other Operations	2,370	1,869	1,284	(—) 31.3
Clinical Inspections	26,066	24,254	21,286	(—) 12.2
TOTAL TREATMENTS	**75,116**	**64,910**	**56,670**	(—) 12.7
,, Individuals Treated	17,470	14,671	11,013	(—) 24.9
,, ,, (per cent Roll Defectives)	(32.4)	(26.4)	(20.4)	(—) 6.0

Supplementary Dental Report

Dental Inspection in Non-Participating Schools

TABLE F 19

SCHOOL OR COLLEGE	Notified	Absent	Refusing	Total Inspected	Total Defective	Per cent Defective
Belfast High School	471	17	—	454	376	82.82
,, ,, ,, (Somerton House) ..	213	10	—	203	160	78.82
Dominican College	457	44	—	413	270	65.38
St. Dominic's School	634	34	—	600	359	59.83
Victoria College (Strathearn)	425	58	—	367	147	40.05
TOTALS	**2,200**	**163**	—	**2,037**	**1,312**	**64.41**

Summarised Dental Report*

TABLE F 20

(A)	**Number of Children on School Rolls in Area**	77,728
	(1) Participating in Authority's Scheme	75,470
	(2) Others	2,258
(B)	**Number of Health Authority Dental Clinics in operation at 31st December:**	
	(1) Static	Four
	(2) Mobile	Nil
(C)	**Number of Clinic Sessions devoted to:**	
	(1) Inspection	570
	(2) Treatment	5,642
(D)	**Total number of Children dentally inspected**	67,627
	(1) School entrants (Ages 4—6 inclusive)	11,262
	(2) School leavers (Ages 13—14 inclusive)	10,359
	(3) Others	46,006
(E)	**Number found to require treatment**	48,308
(F)	**Number of thoses at (E) for whom:**	
	(1) Treatment was accepted at Authority's Clinics	18,503
	(2) Parent chose to consult a private dentist	15,731
	(3) Treatment was declined	6,472
(G)	**Number actually treated at Authority's Clinics** (Individuals)	11,013
(H)	**Total Attendances at Clinics**	51,752
(I)	**Number of General Anaesthetics administered**	8,113

*As prescribed by Ministry of Health and Local Government.

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